Eighth Series, Vol. XLIII, No 9

Tuesday, November 22, 1988
Agrahayana 1, 1910 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

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23/2/89

Twelfth Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)

सत्यमेव जयते

(Vol. XLIII contains Nos. 1 to 10)

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, November 22 1988/Agrahayana 1, 1910 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *In the Chair*]

WELCOME TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to make an announcement. On my own behalf and on behalf of the Hon'ble Members of the House, I have great pleasure in extending our warm welcome to Honourable Mr. Vincenzo Giummarra and other Hon'ble Members of the European Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India. The other Hon'ble Members of the Delegation are:-

1. Mr. Bernard Thareau
2. Mr. Patrick Joseph Lalor
3. Mr. Vittorino Chiusano
4. Mr. Michael Elliot
5. Mr. Rudolf Wedekind
6. Mr. Carlo Alberto Graziani
7. Mrs. (Hanja) Johanna R. H. Maij-Weggen
8. Mrs. Simone M.M. Martin
9. Mr. Juan de Dios Ramirez Heredia
10. Mr. Alexander Sherlock
11. Hon. Sir Peter B.R. Vanneck
12. Mr. Kurt Wawrzik

The delegation arrived here on Friday, 18 November, 1988. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a very happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the European Parliament.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Revision of Wages of Coal Miners

*163. DR. G.S. RAJHANS†: SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal miners engaged in different coal mines in the country have urged upon Government for a revision in their wage structure;

(b) if so, whether Government have since taken any steps to settle the wage structure; and

(c) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): Yes, Sir. Fresh wage settlement in the coal industry has become due w.e.f. 1.1.1987.

(b) Bipartite negotiations are being held between the Management and the Trade Unions in the forum of the Joint Bipartite committee on Coal Industry (JBCCI) to thrash out a new wage agreement.

(c) Agreed recommendations of the JBCCI have not yet been received by the Government for approval.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: In view of the fact that most of the coal mines in India are running in loss, will the Government consider any revision in wages to be linked with productivity?

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Losses because of what? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We have been trying to plead with the trade union organisations that the time has come when we should take a collective responsibility about how to make a particular industry result-oriented and profitable so that they can get a due share in the profits of that industry. So, up till now, responsibility was passed on, as far as workers were concerned and their organisation on the management for all the losses or whatever the management did.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Management?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Management of whether it is public sector, private sector or any sector, workers said : " It is none of our responsibility. It is not our responsibility." And the management would blame the workers for the losses. In short, nobody takes the responsibility for the losses and the wages because of dearness and other things go on increasing. Naturally, workers expect a better deal. Losses also go on increasing. This kind of a situation cannot go on much longer. Therefore, a stage has come now when the entire work force-management and workers together-must have a participatory work culture and take the total responsibility for the efficient working of the industry so that they can get better share of the result. This is our philosophy.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : In this connection, may I know, how the wages and productivity in India differ compared with those other coal producing countries, if it is available with you? Otherwise, I will ask some other supplementary.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is all. Your two supplementaries are over.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It is a fact that the productivity in India as far as coal sector is concerned, in terms of output man shift is one of the lowest in the world..(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Who is responsible?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I began by saying that the responsibility must now be taken collectively. But the fact remains that even after nationalisation, if you take the underground mine, the OMS was half a tonne or a little more 0.54 tonnes. It has actually come down to .52 tonnes. Therefore, although public money has been invested to the extent of more than Rs 2,000 crores in underground mining, productivity has not kept pace. This is not a desirable thing. We can decide who is to blame. But the blame is on the entire management of

which workers also are part and parcel. In at least, public sectors, they cannot be treated as something different. This should be the spirit in which you must look at public sector. Therefore, the fact remains that in open cast mining - 50 per cent of coal production in India today is from open cast mining—we have the latest of the equipments from all over the world—European countries, Australia, Soviet Union and others. The output man shift of the this very equipment compared to other countries from where we got these equipments is not even 20 per cent. So this is a situation which the Hon. Members of the Parliament must take a serious note of, including the labour representatives and must find a solution. This is our approach.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH : The reply given by the hon. Minister on the floor of the House is very satisfactory, still I would like to know as to what were the main features of the previous settlement and what are the main demands of the coal miners at present? Apart from this, what progress has been made so far in the bipartite negotiations?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : In brief, I would like to inform you that the workers have always demanded more and even today they are making too many demands. We have always accepted most of their demands. Now, if we accept their demands we will have to bear in mind as to what impact will it have on the total wage bill and the total financial position of the coal industry. Negotions are going on at present in this regard. Therefore, I am not in a position to give definite reply in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The wage agreement in the coal industry is overdue. Last agreement was expired on 1.1.1987. So about two years have elapsed. Workers are also agitated. There was a seven day strike by about seven lakh coal workers resulting in the production loss. May I know from the Minister whether the coal management has offered increase in the wages of the coal workers; and what is the gap between the demand and the offer made by the coal management; by what time this wage agreement NCWA IV will be arrived at?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It is true that it is now nearly two years that the previous agreement lapsed. But in the mean time as the Hon . Members are aware, we have given an interim relief in the coal sector. This interim relief itself is more tan Rs 200 crores. Therefore it is not as if in this period workers have not been given any relief. It was agreed that this interim relief will become part and parcel of the final settlement and will get absorbed in that. Negotiations are going on, offers have been made on both the sides and they are trying to find out how best to arrive at a reasonable settlement.

SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY: I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the wage cost in terms of percentage which was 60% at the time of nationalisation has gone down to less than 42% . Is it true that it is not only the wage limit which is affecting the cost of coal production, but other elements also? I would like to know whether it is true that it is the workers in the wage settlement—being a member of the Joint Wage Negotiations Committee I would ask—who are demanding that wages be linked with production and productivity.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It is true that the workers and progressive workers particularly are now conscious of this fact and themselves are saying that there should be a linkage between productivity and wages. We cannot go by percentage. At the time of nationalisation there was hardly any investment by the private sector as far as equip-

ment and machinery was concerned. After nationalization, as I stated, public money to the extent of Rs 6000 crores by the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan has been invested in the coal sector alone. Therefore the cost per tonne has gone up on account of the equipment cost. That is the main reason. That is why you should not calculate the percentage. percentage will apear to have gone down; but in terms of actual wages, actual wages have increased from nearly Rs 350/- to an average of about Rs 2000/- today. Therefore, it cannot be said that Government has not been fair to the workers. The percentage aspect is misleading. I would also like to submit that it is desirable both for the workers and for the management to ensure in public interest that the poor man's money is utilised better as a trust and we give maximum production in this coal sector which is a very crucial and key sector of our industry.

Clearance to power Projects in Karnataka

*165. SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the proposals for new power projects received from Karnataka Government;

(b) the action taken by Union Government thereon;

(c) the reasons for delay in clearing these projects; and

(d) when these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (d). A Statement given below:-

STATEMENT

(a) to (d). Power projects sent by the State Government are examined by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for according clearance from the techno-economic angle. The clearance of projects for execution depends upon several factors, such as the comprehensiveness of project reports, expeditious response of the project authorities to various comments/observations of the Central Electricity Authority Central Water Commission, fuel availability, water availability, environment and forest clearance, clearance from the State Pollution Control Board and National Airports Authority, etc., tying up of funds on the basis of the relative priority accorded by the State Government, resolution of inter-state disputes in sharing of water resources, etc. The present position of the clearances of the power projects sent by the State Government of Karnataka is indicated in Annexure below. Efforts are made to expedite the various clearances involved, but it is not feasible to indicate a definite time limit for such clearances.

ANNEXURE

S.No.	Name of Scheme Proposal	Installed Capacity (MW)	Reasons for pending clearance/present status
HYDRO			
1.	Maddur Brarch Canal	1 x 1.5	Inter-State aspects yet to be resolved.
2.	Sivasamundram Seasonal Power House.	2 x 136	Inter-State aspect to be resolved. Environment clearance yet to be obtained.
3.	Brindavan Hydel Scheme	2 x 6	(i). Replies to comments on power planning and cost estimates awaited. (ii). Provisions of Section 29 of Electricity (Supply) Act to be complied with.
4.	Almatti Dam Power House	5 x 50 + 1 x 18	(i) Project is linked up with the Almatti Dam. Final decision of State Government on FRL of the Dam and its construction programme is awaited. (ii) Revised report would need to be sent to the Central Electricity Authority.
5.	Katla and Palna Diversion Scheme	—	Inter-State aspects to be resolved. Returned to the State Government by the CEA.
6.	kabini Dam Power House	1 x 20	— do—

S.No.	Name of Scheme Proposal	Installed Capacity (MW)	Reasons for pending clearance/present status
	THERMAL		
7.	D.G. Sets at Yelahanka	120	Techno-economic approval of the CEA accorded on 10.10.1988.
8.	Manglore Thermal Station	2x 120	Scheme found to be in order techno-economically by the CEA subject to (i) compliance of Section 29 of Electricity (Supply) Act and (ii) clearance from environment and forest angles (iii) clearance from State Pollution Board (iv) timely completion of proposed dam on Mulki river for availability of water (v) Finalisation of logistrics of transpor tation of coal with Railways and port authorities and agency for construction of labour complex (iv) clearance by the CEA of associated transmission systems.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Sir, the statement, I must say, is a fine instance of bureaucracy misleading the Minister. I come to item No. 2, that is, Sivasamundaram hydroelectric project. Two reasons for the delay have been given. The first reason given is that inter-state aspects to be resolved. The Sivasamundarm hydro-electric project is the run of the river project. There is no question of impounding any water and construction of any reservoir. This is run of the river project. Not even one cuser water is consumed or wasted. Whatever water is used for generating power it goes again through the tribune to the valley and to Tamil Nadu. I cannot understand what is the inter-State dispute involved in this. There is no question of impending any water at all. I must tell the hon. Minister that on the same river Kaveri when lower Mettur power station was sanctioned in Tamil Nadu no concurrence of the Karnataka Government was obtained. When Tamil Nadu wanted to start Bharani Kattali power scheme Karnataka Government readily gave their concurrence for the clearance of this project. Here no inter-State water dispute is involved. There is no question of impounding water. There is no question of constructing a reservoir. So I fail to understand how is it that inter-State aspect is involved in this.

The second reason that has been given is that environment clearance is yet to be obtained. I cannot understand this also. There is no question of impounding water, there is no question of constructing a reservoir then where is the question of environmental angle? So, I want the Minister to make a clear statement and say that both these reasons which have been given are just lame excuses.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : I am glad to hear such words from a seasoned and experienced member who himself has been a Minister. (*Interruptions*)

As far as inter-State aspect is concerned it is true that Tamil Nadu Government has not given its consent or approval to this project although we are of the opinion that Sivasamundaram project is one of the best projects for Karnataka and is a run of the river project. But Sir, in an inter-State river....

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: We are not consuming water.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : The reasoning is all right. Why don't you convince the Tamil Nadu Government? (*Interruptions*)

From our side, there is no objection to this project. We are now trying to use our good offices with the Tamil Nadu Government to see that the dispute is resolved. We can't force them (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him finish. Then you raise you point. Let him finish his reply.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I am saying here that the objection is from the Tamil Nadu Government. I am stating this here. Now, if this objection is removed...

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Why objection? I can't understand it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I told you that they say: We don't want. This will affect our interests. (*Interruptions*) The very fact that we are having a difference of opinion means that there is a dispute. What is a dispute after all? The dispute is somebody says something, you say another thing. That's why difference of opinion is a dispute. And Government of India is trying to resolve it between Tamil Nadu Government and Karnataka Government. We will be very happy if this project is resolved.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Sir, I put my second supplementary. But before that,

I asked him in the first supplementary that when Government of India cleared the Lower Mettur power station in the same valley, they did not ask for the concurrence of the Karnataka Government. When Tamil Nadu wanted to take up Bharani Kattali power scheme in the same valley, Government of Karnataka readily gave their concurrence.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Karnataka is so generous.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I do not understand what is the objection.

Sir, now I put my second supplementary. Otherwise, the Deputy Speaker might say that I have exhausted two supplementaries. That is my problem.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sir, you have put 5-6 supplementaries.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: No, no. Sir, my second supplementary is with regard to item No. 7-DG sets at Yelhanka. The reply is that techno-economic approval is accorded by Central Electricity Authority. I want a certification. What is the techno-economic approval, whether it means that the Government of Karnataka will get the Yelhanka DG sets on the basis of supply of credit. When private sector units are getting suppliers' credit, I fail to understand why Government of India is insisting that the State Government should not get suppliers' credit.

Then I want to have another clarification. So far as bilateral credit is concerned, I am told that it is insisted by Government of India that this credit should not be available to State Government when it is available to private sector.

I would like to know whether the DG set is cleared on the basis of suppliers' credit or is cleared only on the basis of free foreign exchange.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: As far as suppliers' credit is concerned we have no objection to the State Government getting the suppliers credit. The Finance Ministry has certain reservations on policy matters. They have explained it to the Karnataka Government that suppliers' credit cannot be made available to the State Government as a Government.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: But is is available to private parties. I cannot understand this point.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: You discuss it with the Finance people and get it clarified.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : On a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No point of order.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : You please allow me.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : There cannot be any point of order in the Question Hour.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please allow him to reply. Then you speak.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I took initiative in clearing this project nearly a year back. I have been pursuing it personally to see that Karnataka gets necessary clearances. Today, under the existing rules we are trying to see if we can have the suppliers' credit made available for Yelahanka gas turbine project through the Power Finance Corporation. If, of course, the rules have to be changed, they would have to be taken up. I am finding every possible way to help them.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : In respect

of the Mangalore multi-fuel thermal station, if you see the conditions imposed by the Central Electricity Authority, it looks as though it will never come into being for many generations. They have put so many conditions. We were extremely happy when we saw in the newspaper that the CEA has cleared this project. But if you see the conditions, it look as if it is a dream. When the CEA gives clearance, it is presumed that they have considered all these aspects and then given clearance. From the beginning of the 7th Plan, this has been hanging fire. I would like to know, how long it will take for the Ministry to clear it finally. The hon. Minister is very energetic and sympathetic also. But we are concerned with the results. I would like to have a definite and categorical answer when you are clearing the project finally and whether the Government has posed it for Soviet assistance.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: As far as the results are concerned, the Karnataka Government has also to cooperate. It must not be an one-sided affair. Karnataka wants to have the cake and eat it too. They want the project, but do not want to put money in it. They want the Central Government to fund even the State projects. For Yelahanka earlier the State Government said that they would raise the funds, but they were not able to raise the funds. Therefore, now the ball is in our court. We have to find the money for them and that is why this delay. It is not as if we have not been trying to be helpful, but the State Government must also cooperate.

As far as the Mangalore project is concerned, I am glad to inform that we have already posed it for the Soviet aid. The agreement includes this. But again, all this is subject to clearance from environment and forest angles, railway siding, completion of the proposed damon Mulki river etc. Don't you think that the Karnataka Government has a role to play in this? Please try to persuade them.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Though the question relates to the power projects in Karnataka, there are complaints from all the States that there are long delays as far as the clearances of the State power projects are concerned. One single reason that is causing the delay is the techno-economic feasibility report. In your own Department, while the CEA clears the project, the Department of power does not do that. Even if both of them have cleared, the NTPC again does the techno-economic feasibility. Why don't you have a system where all the clearances can be given under one umbrella, specially the techno-economic feasibility report? There are cases where the CEA and the Department of Power do not see eye to eye and there is delay of two-three years. Will you agree to stream-line this?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Factually, this is not correct. The CEA is a part and parcel of the Ministry of Energy. CEA is the final authority as far as techno-economic angle is concerned. Once it is cleared by the Central Electricity Authority there is no further dispute between the Power department, i.e. the Ministry and the CEA. No time is lost in this. Factually it is not correct.

As I said, in the State projects certain things are required to be done by the States. They must find some money for these projects and to say that they do not have money will be actually funny because then they cannot have the projects, unless you say that for everything the money must come from the Central Government. But then there also we will have to give the money for every State. Where from the Planning Commission will get the money? Therefore, we must be clear that as far as the responsibility of the State is concerned, they must play their part. As far as the Central Government is concerned we will ensure that there will be no delays in the clearance of the projects.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Mr. Deputy

Speaker, Sir, I was listening very carefully to the Hon. Member Shri Veerendra Patil who has put forth this question. Sir, the crux of the problem is the Sivasamundran Power Generation scheme or the other schemes which have already been planned like the Hogonakkal Biligundu Power Project, are centering around the Cavery water dispute. Now, if your leader advices the Government of Karnataka to agree for referring the matter to the tribunal the problem will be solved. They were very generous to the Tamil Nadu and at the same time we were also generous to have allowed them to construct the tributaries and dams. Why I am saying this is because it is an inter-State water dispute and we should not bring the question of water into the politics. Sir, I would like to suggest that they should agree to have the Hogenakkal Biligundu Power Project at the same time the Tamil Nadu Government will agree to the Sivasamundran Power Generation Project. Unless you resolve this matter, it is very difficult to solve this problem. It has been delayed from 1971 onwards, and the entire thing is centering around the Cavery water dispute.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. I said there was a dispute and that it was being disputed by the Karnataka Government and now here is the Hon. Member from Tamil Nadu who says that there is a dispute. We only hope that the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Government of Karnataka will look at the question in totality and try to resolve the problem. We will use our good offices to help them.

Setting up of Power Plants and Import of Power Generation Equipment

*166. SHRI M.V. CHANDRA SEKHARA MURTHY†:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow foreign companies to set up power plants in the country and import power generation equipment during the Eighth Plain Period;

(b) if so, what would be the impact of this decision on the indigenous power generation equipment manufacturers; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the interests of indigenous manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (c). The Eighth Five Year Plan has not yet been finalised. However, primary reliance in the matter of supply of plant and equipment for power development programmes continues to be placed on the indigenous manufacturers. Imports are resorted to only selectively and merits, depending on the totality of the circumstances, and the interests of indigenous manufacturers of power generation equipment are kept in view.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY : Sir, the indigenous power generation equipment manufacturing industry fear that the bulk of the power generation equipment plants would be taken by the foreign companies as under the 8th Plan, under the bilateral credit, it was decided that 6300 MW is under the bilateral project. Therefore, I would like to know whether it is a fact that because of this the companies concerned have put a condition that the manufacturing equipments will have to be purchased from them; if so, the details thereof.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Import is being resorted to top external financial assistance or where equipment is not available indigenously due to technology constraints.

While resorting to such action, capabilities and business interests of the indigenous manufacturers are kept in view. In the Eighth Plan, the proposed target of power generation is 38,000 MW. BHEL's capability is 4,500 MW per year. Hence, 22,500 MW generation equipment orders are to be placed on it. For 13,000 MW, orders have been placed. We hope to place a further order of 13,000 MW on BHEL. Therefore, capacity utilisation will take place.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : He has not answered the first part of my question. It is a fact that import of 6300 MW is being considered under bilateral credit and is there any pre-condition that the equipment would be purchased from those countries?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : May I state that bilateral credit, in terms, means that the Government which is giving the credit also wants to supply the equipment? 6300 MW which we are proposing for bilateral credit is to make up the gap between demand and supply by the end of Seventh Five Year Plan, which will increase in the Eighth Five Year Plan. We ourselves do not have the resources. That is why we are going to seek bilateral credit. Bilateral credit is normally state to state credit. Therefore, no one is going to give you credit for the sake of charity. They give you credit because they also want to give you the equipment manufactured in their countries. So, this should be clear that when we seek bilateral credit, we also get the equipment. But the main question was whether we would starve our indigenous units like BHEL or ABL, set? Our policy in this regard is very clear. It is our national interest and we will ensure that our own public sector units or for that matter even ABL will not be starved.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: During the recent visit of the Russian President, the Russian Government was pleased to extend concessional credit of nearly 5,300 crores out of which nearly 3,500 crores is earmarked for power projects. I want to know from the hon. Minister, the projects that are identified by the Russian Team. I also want to know whether thermal power plant at Mangalore and the nuclear power plant at Kaiga in Karnataka State have been included in this package. If so, how much money is allotted for these projects?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I have stated earlier that the Mangalore Project has been included. We have identified the projects but each project is yet to be settled finally. But as far as Mangalore is concerned, it has been included.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: What about Kaiga?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Kaiga is not there. Mangalore Project is for a total of 420 MW.

An Hon. Member: Make it 425 at least.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It is the figure of Megawatts. It is not the individual.

But it will be extended and expanded also. That also is provided. If you want to know the names of the projects which are identified, I will give you. But as I said, there might be certain little changes. Anyway, I am just stating them. Vindhyachal Stage II 2 X 500 MW, Mangalore-2 X 210 MW. That is why it becomes 420 MW. Kayamulam: 2 x 210 =420; Maithan: 3 x 210= 630 ; and Ko Dam : 4 x 200 = 800 . It is in Himachal Pradesh. So, this together comes to 3270 MW. This is in addition to nuclear.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the officers in the

management of BHEL are of the opinion that bulk of the orders are going to foreign companies and even the entire projects are going to them. The hon. Minister has stated that we seek foreign collaboration only in selected cases, but I want to inform him that the Yamuna Nagar Project has gone to Canada, U.K. has got the Rihand extension project, the Vindhyachal Stage-II Kayamulam and Maithan projects have gone to U.S.S.R. and the Bakeshwar and Mangalore projects will also go to foreign countries. Similarly, the 390 MW. Dulhasti hydel project has gone to France, Canada has bagged Chamera Stage-II, and Yuri, Largi and Chalkudi projects will also be bagged by foreign countries. Recently, global tenders have been invited for 500 MW Chandrapur, Farakka, Karanpur, Talcher and the 3 units of Tenughat projects. According to the Government generation equipment capacity of BHEL is only 4 thousand M.W which is incorrect because according to BHEL, it has a capacity of 6 thousand MW and during Eighth Five Year plan it can supply generation equipment to the tune of 30 thousand M/W. If these orders go elsewhere BHEL will suffer. Will we gain anything by making our indigenous industries sick and why should we place orders with foreign companies? The BHEL unit in Bhopal has become sick on account of the gas leak from the Union Carbide Factory and it is not getting any orders. I mean to say that orders should go to foreign companies only after 100 per cent capacity utilisation of BHEL has been done. For example, regarding the 38 thousand MW generation equipment orders, BHEL is in a position to supply equipment for the generation of 30 thousand MW. The orders for the rest of the 8 thousand MW can go to other foreign companies. I would like to seek a clarification in this regard and the actual position may also be stated.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The actual position is that we decide this matter on the basis of the estimates provided by BHEL in the Five Year Plans. Suppose BHEL has 'X" capacity but our experience says that it can fulfill only 80 per cent. If after the orders have been placed, only 80, 79 or 78 per cent is fulfilled, then one what basis can we make estimates? In the sixth Five Year Plan the total power generation was 17,468 MW. and in Seventh Five Year Plan it was 17377 MW. On this basis, it seems that the total capacity in the Eighth Plan, will be 20 thousand M.W. We can even accept 23 thousand M.W. Target instead of 20 thousand M.W. We are proud of our Public Sector and we want that it should prosper but we do not believe in exaggerations and we shall not adopt 'the dog in the manger' policy nor allow others to do so. If such a thing happens how will we fill the gap between demand and supply. I do not want to elaborate on this subject further because BHEL is a Government company. We have directed it to enter into collaborations and assured them more orders. But these officers feed wrong information.

[*English*]

I am sorry to say that. We will ensure that BHEL gets full orders, But they must comply with it, with the requirement. For example, all the world Bank aided projects like Farakka Super Thermal, Nathpagh Jhakri, Chandrapur (Maharashtra) North Karanpura Super Thermal Power Station (Bihar) and Tenjghat, BHEL can bid in the World Bank Projects and get these projects. It is their duty to see that they bid and get these projects. They are at an advantage.

[*Translation*]

We cannot spoon feed the Public Sector.

[*English*]

They must do their job also.

[*Translation*]

Sick Industries in Uttar Pradesh

*167. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of large scale industries in Uttar Pradesh which are sick;

(b) the details of each such sick unit;

(c) the details of those sick units under the control of Union Government which have been denotified;

(d) the number of workers affected as a result of denotifying these units by Union Government; and

(e) the main causes of their sickness?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country are collected by the Reserve Bank of India. As per the latest information available from RBI, there were 67 sick industrial units in the organised sector in Uttar Pradesh as at the end of June 1987.

(b) In accordance with the practice and usage customary among Bankers as also in conformity with the provisions of the statutes governing nationalised banks, it will not be possible to divulge the names and other details of the sick units assisted by banks.

(c) No unit has been denotified by the Central Government in Uttar Pradesh.

(d) and (e). Do not arise in view of the answer to part (c) above.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: This question was regarding the number of large scale industries in Uttar Pradesh which are sick. The hon. Minister is concealing information regarding the number of sick industries in Uttar Pradesh and the figure quoted are upto June, 1987 as per information available with the Reserve Bank of India He is not conscious how much water has flowed in these one or one and a half years. The current figures may be much higher, but this information has been withheld. What legal obstructions are there for which the information regarding the number of sick industries and their location is not being disclosed. I asked a specific question and I want a specific answer. How many labourers have been affected by sick industries and what is the extent of their sickness? Why haven't these sick industries been denotified and what measures have been taken by the Government so far for their revival? When you are replying to the question regarding the number of sick industries in November, why are you not coming out with the latest details?

[*English*]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: As I have stated in the answer, 67 large units are sick in Uttar Pradesh. Out of these 67,50 have been referred to DIFR for consideration of their revival. Regarding de-notification, we have a clear policy that the Government will have to do it after consideration of all aspects including viability of each individual case. Then only we decide on the de-notification.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply even now, I would request you to direct the hon. Minister to reply to my querry as to how many labourers have been affected by these sick industries ? What are the figures upto

September, October or November, 1988 ? What is the difficulty in disclosing the number of sick units in Uttar Pradesh? You will not divulge the names...**, as it will create other difficulties. That is why you are hiding it. You may be having difficulties because some of your own people may be involved. But what is the difficulty in giving the aforementioned details? Why are you refusing to disclose the information in the House and why are the facts being concealed (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That will not go on record.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : I have disclosed that 67 industries are sick.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Rai, listen; he is saying something.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : This is according to your own statement.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : As far as the number of labourers affected by the sick units concerned, we do not keep the statistics. If the Member is very particular, we will collect it...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Order, Order.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I request all the Members that the supplementary questions must be within the purview of the question and not to go beyond that.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: We are not going beyond that. This is for your information.

Sir, U.P. people are lucky that no sick industry has been denotified. But you have denotified so many industries in my State. Why I am telling this is because I want your protection. I hope you will give your protection...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am here to protect you only.

(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, it is most unfortunate that three or four days back, three children of the workers in GKW Industry have committed suicide because of starvation...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is it in UP?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It may not be in UP... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You raise it on some other occasion.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: My supplementary question was not allowed.

(*Interruptions*)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Already your chance is over. Kumari Mamata Banerjee

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, it is a matter of shame that the Minister is not looking after the interest of the working

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**Expuged as ordered by theChair.

class. I would like to know from the Industries Minister how you are going to review the situation in the country. I also want to know, how many sick industry have been thrown out in the country and how many workers died because of starvation. It is the duty of the Central Government to rehabilitate them and give moral protection to the working class. I want to know when you are going to decide about this scheme in order to help the working class...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: My question was pertinent and relevant.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am not allowing you...

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J.VENGAL RAO) : Sir, this question is about UP, not about West Bengal or throughout the country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : She is asking only how the workers are going to be rehabilitated.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: These are all private sector industries, not public sector industries and we are not going to take over all the industries. We are referring to DIFR for rehabilitation of all these industries.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : She wants to know how you are going to rehabilitate ...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Do not forget Bengal Potteries. That is your moral commitment...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order, Dr. Datta Samant.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: Sir, the private industrialists are becoming fathers-in-law and sons-in-law of this Government and the Banks are not disclosing their names. Sir, it is really surprising. About 1.5 lakhs of industries are closed and more than one crore workers are thrown out in the country...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Sir, it is unparliamentary . It should be expunged...(*Interruptions*)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will go through the record.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : After the appointment of DIFR Board, the sickness has gone up. Even the healthy industries are saying that they are sick industries and applying to this Board in order to get more benefits from the Construction Bank loans throwing away all labour laws. A Bill was passed here just to protect the workers of the sick industries. After the formation of this Board, all the industrialists are going sick and applying to the Board for getting further benefits from reconstruction bank facilities throwing away all labour laws. More than one crore of workers are unemployed because of this closure. May I know whether the Government will review the whole situation and change the laws?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Actually the question is about Uttar Pradesh.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is there. But they want to know about the labour rehabilitation when they are unemployed.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: The first State where largest number of sick industries are there, is Maharashtra and second is West

Bengal ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not speak like this. The Hon. Minister is on his legs. Please listen to the hon. Minister.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: In Uttar Pradesh the number of major industries is only 67. If you take the country as a whole 6 per cent of the large scale industries and 10 per cent of small scale industries are in Uttar Pradesh and as compared to Maharashtra and West Bengal it is the lowest.

Optical Fibre Cable Project in Orissa

*168. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up an optical fibre-cable project in Orissa;

(b) if so, the place identified in Orissa for the location of that project;

(c) the steps taken to expedite the implementation of the above proposal; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). M/s. Industrial Promotion & Investment Corpn. of Orissa Limited, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, had submitted an application dated the 10th September, 1987 for industrial licence for the manufacture of optical fibre cable for an annual capacity of one hundred lakh Mtrs., at Chandka Industrial Complex, Bhubaneswar, Distt. Puri, Orissa State. The application was rejected in November, 1987 on the ground that adequate capacity has already been approved for the manufacture of this item.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I would like to know whether there has been any assessment made of the requirement of optical fibre cable in the country in the Eighth Plan. What is the capacity approved so far; which are the units; when will they go into production and what is the progress of these units which have been given licence, in the matter of construction etc.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : The plan projection upto 1990 is 54,700 kms of optical fibre cable. Licence was given to Hindustan Cables at Naini in Allahabad for 40,000 kms of optical fibre cable In Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh Electronics Corporation was given licence for 20,000 kms of optical fibre cable. So far 60,000 kms cable, the licences have been given. The projects are making good progress. The production will start in 1990.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Is it a fact that the Orissa Government 's request was rejected in November, 1987 by the Kaul Committee, but it came up again before the full licensing committee on 28 April, 1988 where the Government of India representative i.e. the Secretary of the Ministry of Industry appeared and explained how it is very necessary for another unit to be set up in the country in view of the projected demand? As you know, this is a new innovation in telecommunications and there is a great demand which has not been properly assessed. In view of the growing demand, will the Government re-consider giving the letter of intent to Orissa Government to set up the industry in this field?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : The optical fibre cable is a new technology and we have already given licence for 60,000 kms of cables. After the completion of this on-going project, we will certainly consider other cases. We have already rejected ten applications, not only Orissa's.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Central Assistance to Pending Power Projects in U.P.

*164. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of power projects are lying pending in Uttar Pradesh for want of central assistance;

(b) if so, the reasons for not allocating additional funds to U.P. for completing the pending projects; and

(c) whether Union Government propose to grant approval to another power project of Uttar Pradesh; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Central assistance is provided to the State Governments in the form of block loans and grants. It is not related to any particular Sector/project of the State. It is for the State Government to provide funds for a particular power project in the State Plan.

(c) A number of power projects located in U.P. have been identified for possible implementation for yielding benefits in the Eighth Plan, but their final approval would depend upon the comprehensiveness of the project reports, expeditious response of the project authorities to the various comments/observations of the Central appraising agencies, obtaining of clearances such as from the environmental and forest angles and the tying up of funds for them based on the priority accorded by the State Government.

[*English*]

Employment to Local People in ONGC Units in Gujarat

*169. SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation to the effect that local people are not getting adequate benefit of employment in Oil and Natural Gas Commission units in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) and (b). Representations regarding the recruitment of local people in the establishments of ONGC in Gujarat have been received by ONGC.

2. Recruitment to various posts in ONGC is done according to the ONGC (Recruitment & Promotion) Regulations, 1980. In terms of these regulations, recruitment to class III and class IV posts (except the class III posts which have a pay scale of Rs. 725-1480) is largely made by the respective Regional Office of ONGC from the following categories:

(i) Candidates sponsored by the local employment exchanges.

(ii) Apprentices trained in the Regions.

(iii) Departmental candidates.

(iv) Dependents of deceased employees.

Relaxation in M.R.T.P. Act

*170. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to relax the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act in favour of multi-national and industrial houses coming within the purview of the Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). The MRTP (Amendment) Bill, 1988, pending consideration in Lok Sabha, seeks to amend the provisions of Section 22A and 67 of the MRTP Act, 1969. Certain other proposals for amendment of the Act are also under the consideration of the Government but no final decision have so far been taken in this regard.

Use of Alcohol as Motor Fuel

*171. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA:
SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inter-ministerial committee set up to explore the possibility of using alcohol as motor fuel in the transport sector have submitted their recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise in view of (a) above.

CBI raids on Premises of Officers of Ministry of Communications

*173. SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL:
SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted by the Central Bureau of Investigation on the residential/office premises of officers and staff of his Ministry in Gujarat during 1985, 1986 and 1987;

(b) the particulars of those officers on whose premises raids were conducted; and

(c) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): (a) No. of CBI raids in Gujarat in:

1985	Nil
1986	6
1987	Nil

(b) (i) Shri J.I. Vaswada, Divisional Engineer Telegraphs, Junagadh.

(ii) Shri R.P. Vasani, Assistant Chief Accounts Officer, Junagadh.

(iii) Shri A.A. Siddique, Divisional Engineer Telegraphs, Baroda.

(iv) Shri A.I. Bavla, Senior Grade Telephone Operator, Miyagam.

(v) Shri M.G. Pargi, Telecom Office Assistance, Office of D.E.T., Baroda.

(vi) Shri Om Dutt Tyagi, Divisional Engineer Telegraphs, Rajkot.

(c) (i) Disciplinary action for major penalty has been instituted against Shri J.I. Vaswada, Shri R.P. Vasani and Shri Om Dutt Tyagi (Sl. No. (i), (ii) and (vi) in (b) above).

(ii) Regular Departmental action against Shri A.A. Siddique (Sl. No. (iii) in (b) above).

(iii) Case against Shri A.I. Baval and Shri M.G. Pargi (Sl. No. (iv) and (v) in (b) above is under trial in the Court).

Spreader Project of Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.

*174. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the schedule for completion of the Spreader Project of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.;

(b) whether the progress of the project is as per schedule;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to complete the project as per schedule?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (e). The first 20,000 tonne/hour Spreader of the Second Mine Expansion project of Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. was scheduled to be commissioned by 10-4-89 and the second by 10-8-89. The suppliers of these spreaders have requested NLC for extension of time for commissioning by 6-8 months on various grounds like difficulties in procuring special steels, in indigenising certain components and law and order situation in Neyveli area. The request is under consideration.

Formulation of Energy Conservation Policy

*175. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry has made any recommendations to Union Government on formulation of an energy conservation policy and the need to propagate the concept of energy conservation through development of new techniques;

(b) if so, what are the major recommendations made;

(c) whether the recommendations of PHDCCI have been examined and any preliminaries worked out in that regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Government have seen reports to this effect in the Press. The Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) have also requested the Government for import duty concessions on certain energy saving equipments.

(b) The recommendations made by PHDCCI include elimination of wastage of energy through its efficient management, implementation of the measures identified from time to time for energy conservation,

promotion of captive generation and combined cycle projects and giving incentives for introduction of energy saving equipments.

(c) and (d). Energy Conservation has been accorded a National priority. Efforts taken in this direction include dissemination of useful information to various energy using sectors; organising seminars and workshops for training of managers; undertaking model energy audits in industries; assessing the effectiveness of existing incentive schemes and considering enlarging the scope thereof to induce industries to adopt energy conservation measures; fixation of annual energy consumption target for energy intensive industries and over-seeing the results on a continued basis.

[*Translation*]

Allotment of LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps in Bihar

*176. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who have been allotted petrol pumps and LPG agencies in Bihar and the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes among them;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that some agencies have been taken benami in the name of Scheduled Castes; and

(c) if so, the number of such cases and the action taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) Since the inception in 1980-81 of the annual marketing plans, the number of Retail Outlets and LPG distributorships allotted in Bihar are as below:

	Total No. allotted	*SC*	*ST*
Retail Outlets	230	43	15
LPG	97	18	8

(b) The oil companies have not come across any such instance;

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

[*English*]

American Collaboration in Energy Sector

*177. DR. SUDHIR ROY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any collaboration in the energy sector has been signed with U.S.A.;

(b) whether there was any offer in the sector from USA; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c). Under the bilateral cooperation in Science and Technology, a project titled 'Alternative Energy Resources Development (AERD) was taken up in 1982. An agreement for this project was signed between the Government of India and USAID on 30th June 1982 involving US $ 5 million as USAID contribution for this project and $ 2 million have been added

recently. The term of the Project has been extended till 31.12.1990. 15 projects were taken up under the AERD programme at various institutions in the country in the areas of biomass production and conversion, coal conversion, energy efficiency in industry and transport sector, micro hydel and information exchange.

A Project Grant Agreement has been signed between the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) and US Agency for International Development on 31.8.1987 concerning a project titled "Programme for Acceleration of Commercial Energy Research (PACER). The project will be implemented by the ICICI under the overall direction of an Energy Research and Development Advisory Committee (ERDAC) set up by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. The USAID contribution as per the Project Grant Agreement will be about US $ 20 million for this project for the period upto 30.6.1993. The project is designed to support selected research and technology development efforts in the energy sector with emphasis on renewable sources of energy by providing financial as well as technical assistance towards equipment, training and study tours.

Manufacture/Export/Price of Tractors

*178. SHRI E AYYAPU REDDY. Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tractors manufactured in 1988 so far;

(b) the number of tractors exported;

(c) whether any norms have been fixed for fixing the prices of tractors so as to make them available at reasonable prices to the farmers; and

(d) whether any subsidy is given to the State Agro Industrial Corporation for purchasing tractors?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Industry has reported production of 74,936 tractors till September 1988.

(b) During 1987-88, the number of agricultural tractors exported was 107. They were exported to Angola, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

Improvement in performance of Public Sector Units

*180. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK:
SHRI ANIL BASU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any particular areas have been identified with the object of bringing about improvement in the performance of public sector units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) concrete plans mooted in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c). Grant of more autonomy to the public sector management, modernisation, upgradation of technology, financial restructuring, avoidance of time and cost over runs and reduction of excess staff are some of the areas where greater attention is being paid to improve the performance of public sector units. The White Paper to be placed before Parliament will

discuss various measures already taken and to be taken to make the public sector more efficient and result-oriented.

Industries owned by Government of India in Kerala

*181. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the employment potential and capital invested in industries owned by Government of India in Kerala;

(b) whether Union Government are considering to set up any new industries in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The total employment generated in Central Public Sector Enterprises in Kerala as on 31.3.1987, the latest year for which figures are available, is 0 33 lakhs. The total investment made in terms of gross block, in Central Public Sector Enterprises in the State of Kerala as on 31.3 1987 is Rs. 1074.44 crores.

(b) and (c). Out of a total Seventh Plan outlay of Rs. 408.79 crores for Kerala in the Industrial and Mineral Sector, Rs. 2 10 crores are for new schemes of Fertilizers and Chemicals (Travancore) Ltd. Rs. 40.00 crores for new schemes of Cochin Shipyard Ltd. and Rs. 5.00 crores for new schemes of HMT Ltd., Kalamessary.

[*Translation*]

Agreement for Supply of Equipment to National Hydroelectric Power Corporation

*182. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a loan agreement has been concluded with the Soviet Union for the supply of equipment for the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation;

(b) if so, the quantum thereof and the terms and conditions of the agreement;

(c) whether a similar agreement has been reached with the West Germany also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

New Telephone connections in Metropolitan Cities

*183. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new telephone connections provided in the country during the last three years, year-wise and separately for the four metropolitan cities of Bombay, Madras, Delhi and Calcutta;

(b) the number of applications for telephone connections on the waiting lists;

(c) the details of plans under way to set up more telephone exchanges and increasing the capacity of the existing exchanges;

(d) whether there are any plans to expand the telephone network in hilly and backward areas; and

(e) the time by which the waiting lists are expected to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): (a) The number of telephone connections provided in the country during the last three years are given as under:

During	*Total connections provided*
1. 1985-86	2,67,362
2. 1986-87	3,24,151
3. 1987-88	3,13,078

During	*Bombay*	*Delhi*	*Calcutta*	*Madras*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
1985-86	42,983	33,498	8,967	11,022
1986-87	44,939	51,523	5,756	11,642
1987-88	45,026	51,616	8,474	9,000

(b) The number of applications on the waiting list for the country and four metropolitan cities are given as under:

Sl. No.	*Year ending on*	*Waiting list*
1.	31.3.86	9,85,685
2.	31.3.87	11,24,574
3.	31.3.88	12,63,524

Year ending on	*Bombay*	*Delhi*	*Calcutta*	*Madras*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
31.3.86	1,84,557	1,54,721	28,097	31,270
31.3.87	2,02,054	1,70,661	32,843	39,806
31.3.88	2,10,646	1,87,826	39,711	45,998

(c) During the year 1988-89, it is proposed to add about 750 new telephone exchanges. The net increase in the telephone switching capacity is expected to be about 5 lakhs.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The objectives of the Seventh Plan to clear the waiting list are as under:—

Unit/Type	*Meeting average telephone demand for the period registered upto*
Telephone Districts	
1. Metro Districts	30.9.1986
2. Major Districts	30.9.1986
3. Minor Districts	1.4.1987
Telecommunication Circles	
1. MAX I (Large size Exchanges)	1.4.1987
2. MAX II (Medium size Exchanges)	1.4.1988
3. MAX III (Small) & Manual Exchanges	1.4.1990

The remaining waiting list shall be cleared progressively during the Eighth Plan period.

Community Biogas Plants In Andhra Pradesh

1569. SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned for community biogas and institutional biogas plants in Andhra Pradesh during 1986 and 1987;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the amount during 1988 and 1989; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE). (a) Amounts of Rs. 26.932 lakhs and Rs. 51.145 lakhs were sanctioned for community and institutional biogas plants in Andhra Pradesh during 1986 and 1987 respectively.

(b) and (c). Allocation for subsequent years depends on the number of techno economically viable proposals received from the state Government, implementing agencies and availability of financial resources. Statewise allocation of funds is not made for any state including Andhra Pradesh for this programme.

Supply of Kerosene to Kerala

1570. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quota of kerosene allotted to Kerala during the last six months month-wise;

(b) whether Kerala Government have requested for enhancement of the kerosene quota to the State; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) Allocations of kerosene to Kerala, like other States and Union Territories, have been made with a growth-rate of 7% during the last six months (May to Oct. 1988) over the allocation made from the corresponding period of previous year, and the quantities so allocated, are given below:—

Month	*Quantity allocated at 7% growth rate (tonnes)*
1	*2*
May, 1988	16925
June, 1988	16925
July, 1988	18258
August, 1988	18258
Sept., 1988	18258
Oct., 1988	18258

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) An allocation of 1000 KL per month is being made to Kerala for use by the State's fisheries Sector and this is included in the allocation given above. Besides, ad-hoc releases have also been given to Kerala to meet the increased demand during the last six months, as indicated below:—

Months	*Ad-hoc quantity allocated (Tonnes)*
1	*2*
May, 1988	1912
June, 1988	1412
July, 1988	1212
August, 1988	1712
Sept., 1988	1212
Oct., 1988	2212

Indo-Danish joint venture

1571. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indo-Danish joint venture projects under implementation in the country;

(b) whether some new Indo-Danish joint venture proposals in selected fields are under consideration; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Government has approved 10 Indo-Danish joint venture proposals during the period of 1984 to September, 1988. Follow up of the approvals and monitoring implementation thereof is the responsibility of the concerned Administrative Ministries. No centralised information is available in Secretariat for

Industrial Approvals about the number of approvals which have fructified.

(b) and (c). Some proposals for setting up joint venture with Danish tie-up have been received by the Government and these are at various stages of consideration. Details of pending foreign collaboration proposals are not revealed till the Government have taken final decision thereon.

Threat to Bhakra Dam

1572. DR. B.L. SHAILESH:
DR. D.N. REDDY:
CH. KHURSHID AHMED:
SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the life of the Bhakra Dam across the Sutluj and the total amount spent by Government on its construction;

(b) whether the Bhakra complex faces worst threat to its existence due to heavy rains and the constant attack by the sediments and silt to its reservoir and machines;

(c) if so, its impact on the life of this dam; and

(d) the steps being taken to prevent the silt cutting the dam's life apart from implementing some effective soil conservation measures in the catchment area of Sutluj?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) The life of the dam as predicted by experts is:

(i) for Dead storage levels: 260 years.

(ii) for Live storage levels: 630 years.

The total amount spent on the construction of Bhakra Dam itself was Rs. 79.11 crores.

(b) and (c). Cumulative siltation and such other factors tend to reduce the life of the dam.

(d) Various attempts have been made to deal with the problem of siltation by defining its nature and dimensions apart from outlining the necessary measures to reduce the pace of siltation. The siltation caused by erosion in the catchment area can be reduced by regulation of quarrying of stones and excavations, proper terracing and drainage, afforestation and controlled grazing of animals. A Committee of Experts was appointed to look into the problem which recommended a work plan to be executed by Bhakra Beas Management Board and Government of Himachal Pradesh. Efforts are being made to firm up a comprehensive programme to reduce siltation with the cooperation of the concerned State Governments and other agencies.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Clearing Machine for LPG Distributors

1573. SHRIMATI MANORAMA SINGH:
SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD:
SHRI S.D. SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued instructions to all LPG distributors in the country to install telephone clearing machines;

(b) if so, when these orders were issued and the time by which these orders are to be complied with;

(c) the action proposed to be taken against the defaulters; and

(d) whether Government will assist the dealers in acquiring the said machine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (c). While no instructions have been issued regarding telephone clearing machines, LPG distributors have been instructed by the Oil Marketing Companies to install telephone answering/recording machines. This consumer facility is being introduced in major LPG-marketed towns in a phased manner since 1987, subject to availability of necessary infrastructural support and back-up services. This facility is not mandatory;

(d) No, Sir.

[*English*]

Expansion of 84 Exchange of Ghaziabad

1574. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 84 level exchange of Ghaziabad has been recently expanded;

(b) if so, the number of telephone connections installed after the expansion, category-wise; and

(c) the number of persons now on the waiting list for new connections, category-wise, alongwith the dates covered so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir. But a 2000 lines Electronic Exchange has been commissioned in May, 1988 in the same building.

(b) The number of telephone connections installed, category-wise after commissioning of Electronic Exchange are as follows:—

OYT/G & S	—	596
Non OYT/SS & Non OYT/S	—	298

In addition following connections are now being given:

OYT/G	—	596

(c) The number of persons now on the waiting List for new connections category-wise is given below. The dates upto which Waiting list has already been covered is mentioned against each.

Category	*No. in Waiting List*	*Date upto which waiting list cleared*
1	*2*	*3*
OYT/G	92	14.4.88
OYT/S	32	14.4.88
Non OYT/SS	18	14.4.88

1	2	3
Non OYT/S	470	8.7.86
Non OYT/G	4380	3.10.83 (is being cleared upto 9.8.84)

Tidal Power Development in West Bengal

1575. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great potential for tidal power development in the Delta of Ganga in the Sunderbans in West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether any field studies have been made of its potential and the outcome thereof; and

(c) when the construction of the tidal power project in the Sunderbans Areas is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c). The potential for tidal power development in the Sunderbans identified so far is of a very small magnitude i.e. of the order of 25 MW. Compared to this, the potential identified in the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat was about 1200 MW. Detailed studies for development of tidal power were therefore undertaken in the Gulf of Kutch initially. There is no plan to undertake field studies in the Sunderbans area at this stage.

Commissioning of AIR Station, Cannanore

1576. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the date by which the AIR Station at Cannanore is likely to be commissioned;

(b) the amount out of allocation made for it utilised so far; and

(c) the proposed capacity of the AIR station at Cannanore?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) The proposed Radio Station at Cannanore is envisaged to be commissioned during 1989-90.

(b) Out of the approved allocated amount of Rs. 234.80 lakhs, an amount of Rs. 109.70 lakhs has been spent on the project so far.

(c) Radio Station at Cannanore would be equipped with 2 x 3 KW FM Transmitter, Multi-purpose Studios and Staff quarters.

Licences for setting up of Industries in backward districts in Orissa

1577. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the details of the letters of intent and industrial licences issued for setting up of industries in Orissa, particularly in the backward

districts during the Seventh Plan, upto September, 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): The table below gives the number of industrial licences and letters of intent granted during the financial years 1985-86, 1986-87, 1987-88 & 1988-89 (upto September, 1988) for setting up of industrial capacities in Orissa:—

Year	*No. of Industrial licences granted for Orissa*		*No. of letters of intent granted for Orissa*	
	Total	*Share of backward areas*	*Total*	*Share of backward areas*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
1985-86	19	5	30	16
1986-87	13	5	16	9
1987-88	6	2	19	7
1988-89 (upto Sep.)	1	1	10	5

Assistance to Indigenous Automobiles manufacturers

1578. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of existing models of passenger automobiles designed and manufactured indigenously;

(b) whether indigenously manufactured passenger automobiles compare favourably with automobiles manufactured or assembled in collaboration with other countries; and

(c) if so, the assistance given by Government to indigenous manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). The passenger cars, commercial vehicles, and two wheelers which are in current production in the country cannot be considered fully developed and designed indigenously. By and large, all the manufacturers have either entered into a foreign collaboration or imported drawings and designs for introduction of new vehicles as well as upgradation of the existing vehicles at some point of time. However TELCO have recently developed and introduced few models of commercial vehicles which have been indigenously developed and designed to suit Indian road conditions. Similarly a few models of motorcycles with lower engine capacity and mopeds were indigenously developed and later upgraded through limited import of knowhow. In the last few years considerable progress has been achieved in

the field of updating and modernising the older generation of vehicles particularly in terms of fuel efficiency and a large number of new ranges of fuel efficient vehicles have also been introduced.

(c) Government has been encouraging the indigenous manufacturers of vehicles to continuously modernise and upgrade the product and wherever it is found necessary they are being allowed to import knowhow on liberal basis. Concessional rate of customs and excise duties have also been extended for the manufacture of fuel efficient vehicles within specified parameters.

Expenditure on T.V. Tower Pitampura

1579. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred on the construction of T.V. Tower in Pitampura, Delhi;

(b) the estimated cost of the revolving restaurant being built on this tower; and

(c) when it will be opened to the public?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). An expenditure of about Rs. 502 lakhs has so far been incurred on the construction of the TV Tower and the associated buildings at Pitampura, Delhi. This amount includes provision for the revolving mechanism and kitchen floor of the revolving restaurant.

(c) Doordarshan have initiated action to select a suitable agency for running the restaurant. However, the restaurant can be set up only after certain pending ancillary works are completed.

Speed Post Service in Goa

1580. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places where the Speed Post Service has been provided;

(b) whether any evaluation of the service has been done, if so, its details; and

(c) the reasons for not providing Speed Post Service in Goa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) A Statement is given below.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The case is under active consideration.

STATEMENT

The names of Speed Post Centres in the Country where the Speed Post Service has been provided so far

Centres

1. Delhi
2. Bombay
3. Calcutta
4. Madras
5. Bangalore
6. Hyderabad
7. Ahmedabad
8. Vadodara

9. Jaipur
10. Kanpur
11. Pune
12. Cochin
13. Guwahati
14. Indore
15. Agartala
16. Silchar
17. Coimbatore
18. Visakhapatnam
19. Nagpur
20. Imphal
21. Agra
22. Gwalior
23. Patna
24. Chandigarh
25. Srinagar
26. Trichy
27. Madurai
28. Salem
29. Shillong
30. Trivandrum
31. Mangalore
32. Bhubaneshwar
33. Cuttack
34. Vijayawada
35. Tirupati
36. Bhopal
37. Raipur
38. Meerut
39. Varanasi
40. Jammu
41. Shimla
42. Kanchipuram
43. Lucknow

Extension Counters

1. Hosur
2. Thane
3. Ghaziabad
4. Faridabad
5. Surat
6. Noida Complex SO
7. Nasik

Soviet Cooperation in Oil Exploration

1581. SHRI R.M. BHOYE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any fresh approach to the Soviet Union for cooperation in petroleum sector to take up

new areas for exploration of hydrocarbons in India during the Eighth Plan period in addition to the present commitments; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement arrived at in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Exchange of Films with Foreign Countries

1582. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether agreement have been made with foreign countries in regard to exchange of films;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof; and

(c) the number of films imported and exported under the agreements during 1987-88 and 1988-89, till date?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) There is a Government to Government agreement on exchange of films between India and France. Besides, there is a provision for exchange of films and holding of film weeks on reciprocal basis in Cultural Exchange Agreements between India and various countries. There is also a commercial agreement on exchange of films between National Film Development Corporation and Sovexportfilm.

(b) The Indo-French agreement came into effect on 15.2.85 for a period of two years with automatic extension for a period of two years unless otherwise decided by either party. The agreement which is still in force provides for exchange of 20 films annually on commercial basis.

The agreement between Sovexportfilm and NFDC for import/export of films which came into force on 1.3.1987 for a period of three years envisages:

— import and distribution in India, 20 motion pictures every year by Sovexportfilm.

— Canalisation of import of films by Sovexportfilm through NFDC.

— theatrical (70mm, 35mm and 16mm) and non-commercial (16mm) exploitation of films of Sovexportfilm.

— Purchase of Indian films/video rights worth at least Rs. 6 million each year by Sovexportfilm through NFDC for theatrical and non-theatrical distribution in the territory of USSR.

(c) The number of films imported and exported during 1987-88 and 1988-89 under the (i) agreement between Government of India and Government of France and (ii) agreement between NFDC and Sovexportfilm are:

(i) Agreement between Government of India and Government of France:

Year	*No. of films Imported*	*No. of films Exported*
1	*2*	*3*
1987-88	6	2
1988-89 (upto 7.11.88)	2	1

(ii) Agreement between NFDC and Sovexportfilm:

Year	*No. of films Imported*	*No. of films Exported*
1	*2*	*3*
1987-88	7	18
1988-89 (upto 7.11.88)	7	7

Direct Telephone Links in Himachal Pradesh

1583. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received for direct telephone links (junction) between Chintpurni and Una, Una and Dharamsala, Santokhgarh and Una, Gagret and Shimla, Mehatpur and Chandigarh, Mehatpur and Shimla, Mehatpur and Jalandhar, Una and Hamirpur, Nadaun and Hoshiarpur, Ghumanrwin and Shimla, Kandraur and Bilaspur, Jhanduta and Bilaspur, Nadaun and Barsar, Sujanpur Tihra and Palampur, Una and Bilaspur, Jahu and Mandi, Bangana and Hamirpur, Sansarpur Terrace and Talwara, Kangoo and Hamirpur, Sujanpur Tihra and Nadaun, Sansarpur Terrace and Dharamsala, Sarkaghat and Hamirpur, Ghumarwin and Ladraur, Lehri Sareil and Bilaspur and Pragpur and Dharmsala;

(b) if so, the links out of them since sanctioned and the programme drawn up for their installation; and

(c) if none of the requests have been acceded to so far, the time by which necessary sanction will be given and programme for the installation drawn up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Direct trunk circuits on three routes viz. Una-Dharamsala, Una-Hamirpur and Ghumarwin-Shimla already exist. For Kandraur-Bilaspur section a direct trunk circuit stands approved. It is planned for commissioning during the year 1989-90. Direct trunk circuits from Mehatpur to Chandigarh, Shimla and Jalandhar are targetted to be commissioned of Una-Jalandhar UHF (Radio System) which is planned to be commissioned during 1989-90. Direct trunk

circuits on the remaining routes are not justified as trunk traffic is low at present.

(c) Provision of direct trunk circuits on the routes not justified at present will be considered after sufficient trunk traffic builds up in future.

Small Scale Acrylic Plants Product Units

1584. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the small scale acrylic plastic products units are on the verge of closure on account of the rising input costs and their frequent shortages;

(b) whether the prices of two vital raw materials required for acrylic plastic product units viz. Methyl Methacrylate Monomer and Prime acrylic sheets have gone very high during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government to safeguard the interest of this industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). Representations have been received regarding problems being faced by small scale acrylic plastic products units due to inadequate availability of Methyl Methacrylate Monomer and acrylic sheets at reasonable prices.

(c) BICP has been asked to conduct a Cost Study of Methyl Methacrylate Monomer and acrylic sheets units.

Survey for Coal Deposits

1585. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Geology and Mining has surveyed more areas in the country to locate coal deposits;

(b) if so, what are its findings;

(c) the steps being taken to extract coal from those areas; and

(d) the measures being taken to increase the coal production from the existing coal fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir. Directorates of Geology and Mining of State Governments of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Assam and Nagaland have been undertaking coal exploration either independently or on behalf of Coal India Limited.

(b) and (c). As a result of detailed coal exploration done by the Directorates of Geology and Mining of State Governments of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra during the last three years, on behalf of the Coal India Limited; sizeable reserves of exploitable coal have been located in Talcher and Ib Valley Coalfields in Orissa; Johilla, Sonhat, Sohagpur and Jhagrakhand coalfields in Madhya Pradesh and Wardha Valley in Maharashtra. In all, detailed explorations were carried out in 18 blocks during this period. A number of mines have been identified in these areas for extraction of coal during the VII and VIII Plan periods.

(d) The measures being taken to increase coal production from existing coalfields are as follows:

(1) Formulation of master plan of various coalfields;

(2) Augmentation of capacity by re-organising existing mines

as well as opening new mines;

(3) Implementing modern underground technologies like Longwall powered support, Blasting Gallery, Hydraulic mines etc;

(4) Improving information management by enlarging communication facilities and computerisation.

Distribution of Power from Central Power Projects in Southern States

1586. SHRI T. BALA GOUD: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the States included in the Southern region for distribution of power generated from power projects under the control of Union Government; and

(b) the criteria for the distribution of power from such power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) The following States and the Union Territory of Pondicherry are included in the Southern Region for the distribution of power from the Central Power Stations:

(i) Tamil Nadu
(ii) Andhra Pradesh
(iii) Karnataka
(iv) Kerala.

(b) The formulae adopted for the allocation of power from the Central Power Stations are given in the Statement below.

STATEMENT

Central Sector Thermal/Atomic Power Projects

(i) 15% power is kept un-allocated at the disposal of the Centre to meet the urgent requirements of individual States in the Region from time to time.

(ii) 10% power is allocated to the "Home State" in which the power station is located.

(iii) The balance 75% power is distributed amongst the beneficiary States in the Region, including the "Home State", in accordance with the energy consumption by, and the Central Plan assistance to, the States during the last five years. The needs of the Union Territories are also met by appropriate allocation.

Central Sector Hydro-Electric Power Projects

(i) 15% of the generation capacity is kept "Un-allocated" at the disposal of the Central Government to be distributed within the Region or outside, depending upon overall requirements.

(ii) The 'Home State', i.e. where the project is located, is supplied 12% of power from the energy generated by the power station, free of cost.

(iii) The remaining power (73%) is distributed between the States of the Region (including the "Home State") on the basis of the Central Plan assistance give-

various States in the Region during the last five years and on the basis of consumption of electricity in the States in the Region in the last five years.

Exploration Activities in North-Eastern Region

1587. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to step up the exploration activities in the Eastern and North Eastern region of the country to locate and tap the oil reserves there;

(b) if so, whether any action plan for the Eighth Plan for this purpose has been initiated; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The action plan for the Eighth Plan will be known only after the Eighth Plan is finalised as a whole.

Offshore Development Scheme

1588. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any development schemes were prepared for Panna off-shore oil fields and South and mid Tapti oil fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present position; and

(c) when these schemes are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir. ONGC have prepared schemes for development of Panna oil fields and South Mid Tapti gas fields.

(b) and (c). The details are:-

Development of Panna Field

The Project which is estimated to cost Rs. 640.11 crores, envisages oil production of 0.5921 million tonnes in the first year and 0.3644 million tonnes in the final year with a peak production of 1.24 million tonnes per annum of oil and 3.57 million cubic metres per day of gas. The facilities proposed are installation of one process platform, 8 platforms and drilling of 65 wells.

Development of Mid and South Tapti gas fields

The cost estimates of this project is Rs. 709.60 crores. It is planned to instal five well platforms and drill 58 wells. The Tapti gas field is expected to produce 3.2 million cubic metres per day of gas for first 9 years.

Both of the projects are yet to be approved by the Government.

Conversion of Ghaziabad 84 Cross-Bar Exchange

1589. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 84 level cross-bar exchange in Ghaziabad is proposed to be converted into an electronic exchange;

(b) if so, the time by which it would be done; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the 8th Five Year Plan.

(c) Does not arise.

Utilisation of Jhama Coal Reserve in Jharia

1590. SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether reserves of 600 to 800 million tonnes of low volatile Jhama coal are available in Jharia Coalfields;

(b) the mining plan of such reserves and their utilisation pattern;

(c) whether the said variety of coal is suitable for V S K Cement Plants and briquetting;

(d) whether Government have received any representation for mining and making available such coal to V S K Cement plants, medium, small and tiny; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir. The total reserves of Jhama coal in Jharia Coalfields are estimated at about 1224 million tonnes. In addition, there is a reserve of about 51 million tonnes of special low-volatile coals in Jharia Coalfields.

(b) The quality of Jhama coal being uncertain, there is not much demand for this type of coal. Hence, no regular plans have been drawn for mining of Jhama coal. However, reserves of Jhama coal occurring in Opencast mines are likely to get mined alongwith other reserves of coal.

(c) The suitability of Jhama coal for use in V S K cement plants is reportedly under investigation by the National Council for Cement and Building Materials. Investigations are also being conducted by the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited, Ranchi in regard to the conversion of Jhama coal into briquettes for industrial and metallurgical use.

(d) and (e). Government have not received any representation for mining and making available Jhama coal to V S K plants.

STD Facility in Limbdi in Surendranagar District (Gujarat)

1591. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether STD facility has been provided in Limbdi (Surendranagar District), Gujarat;

(b) whether this facility is available only at the Public Call Office and not on every telephone; and

(c) if so, the time by which the STD facility will be made available on every telephone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. One long distance Public Call Office at Limbdi has been provided with STD facility from Surendranagar Telephone Exchange.

(c) The STD facility for the subscriber's at Limbdi has been planned to be provided during the Eighth plan period.

Scarcity of 60 ML Pouches of Mobile Oil

1592. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 60 ml. pouches of mobile oil is generally not available with all the petrol pumps in Delhi and elsewhere in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure its availability with all the petrol pumps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) and (b). Indian Oil Corporation has been test marketing 60 ml. pouches of mobil oil in Delhi area since 1984. So far about 40 lakhs pouches have been filled and marketed in and around Delhi. Similarly, test marketing has been done in and around Pune, Hyderabad and Madras. As the package is in test marketing stage; IOC has planned to introduce it in other parts of the country in a phased manner.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. is marketing Super 2T Motor/Engine oil in 60 ml. pouches in the Northern and Southern parts of the country. Its retail outlets in Delhi and other places in these regions are adequately stocked. It has planned to market 2T oil in pouches in the Western Region shortly.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. has introduced marketing of 2T oil in pouches at selected petrol outlets in Delhi on trial basis recently.

IBP Co. is marketing IOC's brand of lube oils, but its sale in 60 ml. package through its retail net work in Delhi has not yet been started due to certain constraints.

T.V. Centre at Imphal

1593. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the construction of TV Centre at Imphal and the likely date by which it will start functioning;

(b) whether recruitment to the various posts for the TV Centre has been started; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) A high power (1 KW) TV transmission centre has already been functioning at Imphal since November, 1987. Construction of the building for the TV studio centre at Imphal has been completed. Part supply of the required studio equipment has been received. Installation work is in progress. Air-conditioning plants have been received at site and the work of airconditioning has been awarded. Equipment for the sub-station for power supply has also been received at site. As per present indications, the studio centre is expected to be completed and commissioned into service towards the end of 1989.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Reconstitution of Regional Salt Advisory Boards

1594. SHRI SODE RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the regional salt advisory boards including the Andhra Board, have been reconstituted recently;

(b) if so, the details and names of those nominated on Andhra Board;

(c) the details of the non-official member nominated on Andhra Board;

(d) whether any non-official member nominated on Andhra Board was charged with clandestine diversion and black-marketing of kerosene meant for distribution through the public distribution system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The names of the members including non-official members, nominated to the Andhra Board are given in the Statement below.

(d) and (e). There have been some press reports in this regard concerning Shri Jalaiah of Prakasam District originally nominated to the Board. He has since ceased to be a member of the Andhra Board.

STATEMENT

List of Members of Andhra Pradesh Regional Advisory Board for Salt

Chairman

1. Salt Commissioner

Representatives of Government.

2. Industries Commissioner, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

3. A Representative of Directorate of Medical & Health Services, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

4. Labour Commissioner, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

5. Divisional Railway Manager, Vijaywada.

6. Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair.

7. Deputy Salt Commissioner, Madras.

Person having knowledge and experience of public affairs

8. Shri Pedringu Lakshman Ram Ex. M.L.A., Machilipatnam.

9. Shri L. Eswara Rao Ex. M.L.A., Guntur.

Persons having knowledge and experience in salt manufacture in Andhra Pradesh

10. Shri K.K.V. Satyanarayana Raju Ex. M.L.A., Achutapuram, Elamanchi Tk. Vizag.

11. Shri Tippala Appa Rao, Gajawaka, Visakhapatnam.

12. Shri Dola Seetharamulu, Ex. M.L.A., Dola Village, Narasanlapet, Srikakulam Dt.

13. Shri Penchalaiah, Ex. M.P., Nellore Dt.

14. Assistant Salt Commissioner — Member Secretary.

UNESCO'S Programme for the Development of Communication

1595. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is a member of the

UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication;

(b) the main purpose of the Programme;

(c) if so, the contribution made by India;

(d) the extent to which India would be benefitted by the programme?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir. India has been a member of the Inter-Governmental Council of the I.P.D.C. since 1981.

(b) The main purpose of the I.P.D.C. is to identify the needs and priority areas for the information and communication development plans in developing countries and to secure funds to support these activities.

(c) India has so far paid US $ 8,00,000 (Eight lakhs) towards the Special Account of I.P.D.C. In 1985 and 1986, the Indian Institute of Mass Communication organised two crash courses of six weeks duration in News Agency Journalism for Developing Countries for the nominees of I.P.D.C.

(d) The benefits of India's participation in the IPDC are both tangible and intangible. India has always espoused the cause of New International Information and Communication order and the balanced flow of information. Communication is an important input of socio-economic development. Further, India has received financial assistance amounting to US $ 55,000 so far from IPDC.

NRI Proposals for Industries in Maharashtra

1596. DR. DATTA SAMANT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by the Indian Investment Centre from Non-Resident Indians to start industries in Maharashtra; and

(b) the details thereof and the number of proposals approved by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). Since setting up of the Special Approval Committee (NRI) in November, 1983, Government have received 64 industrial licence applications from the non-resident Indians, to set up industries in the State of Maharashtra, against which 32 letters of intent/SIA Regns. have been issued to them upto 30.6.1988. The proposals approved are for setting up projects in the areas of direct reduced iron, PVC coated steel sheets, nickel-cadmium batteries, trichloroetheylene etc.

Petrochemical Complex in Algeria

1597. DR. D.N. REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to set up a Petrochemical complex in Algeria;

(b) if so, the details of the project; and

(c) the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c). Possibilities of setting up joint venture petrochemical projects with Algeria are being evaluated from the view points of techno economic and other relevant considerations. The question of working out other details will arise only after the evaluation on hand is completed.

Rise in Prices of Automobiles and Tyres

1598. SHRI SRI HARI RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of trucks, buses, light commercial vehicles, cars, two-wheelers, tyres and other automobiles have gone up;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the percentage of prices gone up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). There is no statutory price control on automobiles. Prices of automobiles have increased to varying extent from time to time primarily due to increase in the cost of raw materials and other inputs, the incidence of foreign currency appreciation and customs duties on imported components and other factors. However, there has been a remarkable increase in the production of automobiles over the last few years. There is stiff competition in the market now which is conductive to keeping a check on the prices.

Provision of Employment in Damodar Valley Corporation

1599. SHRI RAMSWARUP RAM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Damodar Valley Corporation under its various projects is providing adequate employment opportunities to persons who are domiciled in Bihar and West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the percentage of persons from Bihar and West Bengal to the total strength in the various cadres of the Damoder Valley Corporation services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b). The Damodar Valley Corporation do not make recruitment to its Cadres on the basis of domicile. Recruitment in Group 'C' and 'D' posts is made through local employment exchanges, while for Group 'A' & 'B' posts recruitment is made on an All India basis.

Agitation by Officers Associations of Central Public Sector Undertakings

1600. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Officers Associations of the Central public sector undertakings have decided to launch agitation throughout the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for agitation indicating their main demands; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c). Government has seen Press Reports that the Officers Associations of Central Public Sector Enterprises have decided to launch an agitation throughout the country. No formal Memoranda in this regard spelling out their demands has been received. The Memoranda as and when received would be examined on merits.

World Bank Finance for Northern Region Transmission System

1601. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a World Bank team visited India recently to discuss the financing of the Northern Region Transmission System proposed to be set up by the National Hydro-

electric Power Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any final decision has been taken in this regard; and

(d) whether World Bank has also proposed to finance an 800 Kv line and a 400 kv line in hilly areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c). The World Bank team visited India in October, 1988 and held discussions with the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) for appraising the proposed Northern Region transmission project to be set up by the NHPC. They have shown interest in financing this project which inter alia includes 800 KV/400 KV transmission lines. No final decision in this regard has been taken.

Diversion of Assistance Meant for Nagarjuna Sagar Hydro-Electric Power Project

1602. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance received from Britain during 1986 and 1987 for the Nagarjuna Sagar Hydro-Electric power project; and

(b) the reasons for diversion of funds earmarked for Andhra Pradesh to other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Government of U.K. had allocated £ 12.93 Million for financing import of 3 turbine generator units from U.K. for the Nagarjuna Sagar Power Station of Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board against which payment is being released in stages.

(b) the question of diversion of funds to other States does not arise.

Study on Coir Industry

1603. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of the study on coir industry made by the Planning Commission; and

(b) the action taken thereon for revitalising the coir industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). A High Level Study Team under the Chairmanship of Shri B. Sivaraman, former member Planning commission was appointed by the Government in 1976 to study in depth, the problems of coir industry. The major recommendations made by the Team related to removal of Husk Control Order 1973, expansion of cooperativisation scheme and tackling of problems of brown fibre industry etc. On examination of report the Husk Control Order, 1973 was rescinded w.e.f. 31.8.86 and consequently the single point levy scheme on coconut husk introduced from 1.9.86. This scheme has later on been extended as three point levy scheme till the end of 7th Plan Period.

To promote cooperativisation in Coir Industry, a Central Scheme of cooperativisation introduced w.e.f. 21.8.82, has been extended upto 31.3.90. The scheme is being implemented by the State Governments and Central Assistance to the States is given on matching basis. During the 7th Five Year Plan Period upto 1987-88, a sum of Rs. 169.36 lakhs has been released to various States. With the assistance extended under

this scheme, over 600 societies out of a total of around 800 cooperative societies in various States, have been so far brought under the Central Scheme of cooperativisation.

Problems of brown fibre sector, receive continuous attention of Govt. A scheme for financial assistance for brown fibre sector introduced in March '87, has been further liberalised to provide for grant upto 25% on graded basis. To accelerate pace of development of this sector, another regional office with Vishakhapatnam as Head Quarters, has been opened with effect from 1-7-1988.

Industrial Sickness

1604. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:
SHRI MANIK REDDY:
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Industrial sickness has been rising in the country day by day;
(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) how far it has increased at present in comparison to the preceding three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). Data on sick industrial units in the country, assisted by banks are collected by the Reserve Bank of India. The latest available data from RBI in this regard is upto June, 1987. The figures for the last three years as on the dates mentioned below are as follows:

	Total No. of Sick Units
December, 1984	93,282
December, 1985	1,19,606
December, 1986	1,47,740
June, 1987	1,59,283

Generally, a number of causes, both internal and external, often operating in combination have been responsible for industrial sickness. Some of the principal causes are faulty planning, management deficiencies, inefficient financial control, diversion of resources, inadequate attention to R & D, obsolescence of technology and machinery, poor industrial relations, inadequate demand, shortage of raw material and other inputs and infrastructural constraints.

T.V. Transmission Centre at Santhal Parganas, Bihar

1605. SHRI SALAHUDDIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up T.V. Transmission Centre in Santhal Parganas (Bihar) for the benefit of people of hill areas of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir. a low power (100 W) TV transmitter is envisaged to be set up at Dumka in Santhal Parganas district of Bihar.

(b) As per present indications, this transmitter is likely to be installed and commissioned into service during the financial year 1989-90.

Hydro-Electric Power Generation

1606. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN:
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hydro-electric power generation has been decreasing during the recent years;

(b) if so, the share of hydro-electric power generation in the over-all power generation during the last three years;

(c) the reasons for the decrease;

(d) the extent of capacity utilisation by the existing hydro-electric power generating units; and

(e) whether any steps have been taken by Government to increase the hydro-electric power generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The required information is given below:

Years	*Hydro Generation (MU)*	*Total Generation (MU)*	*% of Hydro Generation to Total Generation*
1985-86	50933	170037	30.0
1986-87	53764	187605	28.7
1987-88	47395	201894	23.5

(c) The hydro generation has declined during 1986-87 and 1987-88 mainly on account of low reservoir levels due to poor monsoons in the country during these years.

(d) During the years 1987-88 the All India hydro generation was 47396 MU against the installed capacity of about 16823 MW as on 31st March, 1988 (excluding some mini-micro schemes).

(e) In order to increase the hydro generation in the country, a capacity aggregating to 5541.2 MW is envisaged to be commissioned during the Seventh Plan period.

[*Translation*]

Electronic Telephone system in Barmer District of Rajasthan

1607. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of backward districts in the country where electronic telephone system is being provided through Integrated Digital Scheme with the help of the Government of Norway;

(b) the progress of the above scheme, district-wise;

(c) whether the pace of work under the above scheme is very slow in Barmer district of Rajasthan;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to expedite the work; and

(e) when the scheme will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI

GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The names of districts are:

1. Mathura (Uttar Pradesh)
2. Nainital (Uttar Pradesh)
3. Barmer (Rajasthan) and
4. Kohima (Nagaland).

(b) The progress of the schemes districtwise is given in the statement below

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) (i) Regular coordination meetings are being held at General Managers level to monitor progress and expedite the work.

(ii) Engineers who have already commissioned similar exchanges in UP have been deputed to Barmer to expedite the work.

(e) The scheme is likely to be completed during 1989-90.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	*Name of the Districts.*	*Metaconta rural (MCR) exchanges*	*Rural transit Exchange (RTX)*	*Pulse code modulation (PCM) Links*	*Transmission Media*	*Overall testing*
1.	Mathura	All exchanges commissioned	Under installation	Under installation.	Infrastructure being completed.	Targetted for 1989-90.
2.	Nainital	—do—	—do—	—do—	—do—	—do—
3.	Barmer.	All exchanges under installation and targeted to be commissioned in 1989.	—do—	—do—	—do—	—do—
4.	Kohima	—do—	—do—	Not applicable	Infrastructure is under completion	—do—

[*English*]

A.I.R./T.V. Relay Centres in Kerala

1608. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new T.V. relay centres and A.I.R. stations which will start functioning in Kerala during next year; and

(b) the expected expenditure involved on these projects?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) Two T.V. relay centres and two Radio Stations are scheduled for commissioning towards the end of the next financial year (1989-90) in Kerala.

(b) The total expenditure involved in setting up of these projects is estimated at Rs. 610.90 lakhs.

Industrial Units in Haryana

1609. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of industrial units in Haryana as on 1 November, 1966;

(b) the total number of these units in the States as on 31 March, 1987 both in small scale and large scale sectors; and

(c) the number of industries set up there from 1 April, 1987 to 30 September, 1988 alongwith their locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Installation of Telephone Surveillance System

1610. SHRI H.B. PATIL:
SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a telephone defect surveillance system is proposed to be installed at several important locations in the country to ensure better long distance communications; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the places where it will be installed; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The surveillance system is meant to monitor the performance of Analogue Transmission Systems in the country. Following is the State-wise locations of this system:-

State	*Locations*	*No. of Systems*
1	*2*	*3*
Delhi	Delhi	2
Punjab	Jallandhar	1
Haryana	Ambala	1
Rajasthan	Jaipur	1

1	*2*	*3*
U.P.	Kanpur	1
	Lucknow	1
	Agra	1
West Bengal	Calcutta	2
	Siliguri	1
Meghalaya	Shillong	1
Bihar	Patna	1
Tamilnadu	Madras	2
	Coimbatore	1
	Madurai	1
Karnataka	Bangalore	1
	Belgaum	1
Kerala	Ernakulam	1
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	1
	Vijayawada	1
Maharashtra	Bombay	2
	Pune	1
	Nagpur	1
Gujarat	Ahmedabad	1
	Rajkot	1
Madhya Pradesh	Indore	1
	Total =	29

These are provided only at large telecommunication centres.

Gas From Garbage at Timarpur, Delhi

1611. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the reply given on 24 November, 1987 to Unstarred Question No. 2537 regarding power generation from garbage at Timarpur, Delhi and state:

(a) whether the trial operation of the power plant based on garbage incineration has been successful; and

(b) if so, whether such projects are proposed to be established in all Metro cities during Seventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The plant has already generated power upto 2 MW. Trial operations are not yet complete.

(b) Extension of the project to other cities will be considered after completing trial operations on a longer term basis.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Public Sector Enterprises

1612. SHRI SAMBHAJIRAO KAKADE:
SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have authorised the managements of public sector enterprises to introduce voluntary retirement scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether the scheme will be made applicable to all public sector enterprises;

(d) what is the criteria laid down to assess the surplus staff;

(e) whether the scheme has come into effect and if so, since when; and

(f) how many persons have been given voluntary retirement, so far?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c). Basic parameters of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme announced by the Government for the employees of public enterprises are contained in the O.M. dated 5.10.1988 is laid on the table the House [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6783/88]

(d) to (f). It is for the management of the public sector enterprises to assess the surplus staff and implement the scheme. Since the scheme has been notified only very recently, it is too early to make an assessment of the number of persons who would opt for voluntary retirement.

Autonomy for AIR/TV

1613. SHRI H.M. PATEL:
SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:
SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any fresh thinking on giving autonomy to Radio and Television;

(b) whether any autonomous Corporation is proposed;

(c) if so, when; and

(d) if not, the reason thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) Both All India Radio and Doordarshan enjoy complete functional autonomy in all professional aspects;

(b) No, Sir;

(c) and (d). Government is of the view that the media are meant to serve the people and for such a purpose, it is not necessary that they should be set up as statutory bodies/corporations.

[*Translation*]

Production of Benzene

1614. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the unit producing benzene in the country at present and their total production;

(b) whether the production of benzene is much less than its demand;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet the demand of the small scale units?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c). At present benzene is being produced by National Organic Chemical Industries, Indian Petrochemicals Corporation, Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and some steel plants. The anticipated production of benzene from these units in 1988-89 is around 1,79,000 MT. This is marginally short of projected demand. The deficit is being covered through imports. By way of long term solution to the problem, additional capacities for the manufacture of Benzene have been approved and are in the process of being established.

[*English*]

Power Equipment Orders for BHEL

1615. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. has sought additional orders for power equipment during the Eighth Plan;

(b) if so, the total orders so far received by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. for the Eighth Plan; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide additional power equipment orders to the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far BHEL have received orders for power projects totalling to 12,166 MW for benefits in the 8th Plan.

(c) The steps to provide additional orders to BHEL for the manufacture of power generation equipment are discussed in meetings attended by representatives of all the concerned Ministries.

Provision made for Communication in Eighth Plan

1615. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated amount provided for communication in Eighth Plan and the number of new connections likely to be given;

(b) the total demand for telephone connections and when the whole backlog is likely to be cleared;

(c) whether new areas are likely to be brought under Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these areas will be brought under this organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The Depart-

ment of Telecommunication has drawn up a draft perspective plan to provide 50 lakh direct exchange lines during the Eighth Plan period at an estimated cost of Rs. 19,900 crores (1987-88 prices).

(b) The waiting list of telephone connections for the country as on 31.8.88 was around 14 lakhs. Tentative proposals are to provide telephone connection, practically on demand, by 2000 A.D.

(c) At present, there is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

Recommendation of Chari Committee on Problems of Coal Industry

1617. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the recommendations of the KSR Chari Committee about the problems of the Coal Industry;

(b) if so, the recommendations which have been accepted and what is the implementation stage of each one of them;

(c) the recommendations which have been rejected and the reasons thereof; and

(d) the views of the Committee about the purpose served by Coal Nationalisation and the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (c). The report 'Issues in Coal' submitted by Shri S.S.R. Chari to the Advisory Board on Energy, is being examined in accordance with the procedure laid down. No decision has yet been taken by the Government.

(d) About coal nationalisation Chari Report has observed that though the production has increased, the objective of nationalisation cannot be said to have been fully achieved.

Briefly, the major objectives for nationalisation of coal Industry were:-

(a) Careful exploitation of Limited Coking Coal reserves.

(b) Need for halting wasteful mining practices.

(c) Improvement in standard of safety in mines.

(d) Conservation of coal reserves and scientific development of mines.

(e) To ensure adequate investment with a view to optimal utilisation of coal resources consistent with the need of growing economy.

(f) To alleviate the condition of workforce employed in the industry.

While, the fulfilment of these objectives is a continuous process, since nationalisation, steps have been taken towards achieving these objectives with substantial success. Only cooking coal production has not grown according to the demand but it does not imply that objectives of nationalisation have not been met.

Autonomy to Public Sector Enterprises

1618. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to give the public sector enterprises greater autonomy by substantially relaxing the controls exercised by the Bureau of Public Enterprises over them; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). The Bureau of Public Enterprises does not exercise any direct control over the public sector enterprises. As such the question of relaxing the controls does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Out of Order Telephones in East Delhi

1619. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephones of East Delhi often remain out of order;

(b) if so, the action taken to improve the telephone system in East Delhi; and

(c) the number of complaints registered in telephone exchanges of East Delhi during the last three months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Number of complaints registered per 100 stations:-

	August 1988	*September 1988*	*October 1988*
Laxminagar	21.2	18.9	21.10
Shahdara	17.9	20.5	17.3

Time Slot for "Sansad Samiksha"

1620. SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that time slot allotted for telecast of 'Sansad Samiksha' was 7.30 p.m.;

(b) if so, the reasons for changing the time;

(c) whether it is proposed to telecast it again at 7.30 p.m.;

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) to (d). The 'Sansad Samachar' programme was being telecast by Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi and carried by all its relay transmitters at 7.30 p.m. till the Winter Session of Parliament, 1987. Keeping in view the requests from the Members of Parliament and for the benefit of viewers all the country, the programme has been included in the National Programme and is being telecast at 9.50 p.m. with effect from Budget Session of Parliament, 1988. There is no proposal to change the timings.

[*English*]

Customer Service Centre in Bangalore City

1621. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the places where Customer Service Centres have been opened in Bangalore city by Bangalore Telephones; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to popularise these centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI

GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The places where Customer Service Centres have been opened in Bangalore city are as follows:-

(1) Vikram Complex, Navrang Park, 80 FT Road, Rajaji Nagar (2) 46-E Lalbagh Road (3) 219 Binnamangala, Indiranagar, II stage, Behind BDA Shopping Complex (4) O/O the Area Manager (R), Swathi Complex, 1A Platform Road, Seshadripuram (5) 80/7 Ashoka Plaza, Kamaraj Road, (6) 80/7 Elephant Rock Road III Block Jayanagar (7) O/O the General Manager Bangalore Telecom. Dist. Chamber of Commerce LDG, Commerce Building, KG Road & (8) O/O the Area Manager (C), Subedar Chatram Road.

(b) Opening of Customer Service Centres, services offered by them and their locations have been given wide publicity through the press. Messages advising customers to pay their bills at customer service centres are incorporated in telephone bills.

T.V. Regional Programmes on National Network

1622. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI G. BHOOPATHY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the duration of regional language programmes on the National Network; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Interim Report of High Power Pay Committee

1623. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations made by the High Power Pay Committee for Public Sector Undertakings having Central pattern of dearness allowance in its third interim report; and

(b) the details of the recommendations accepted and implemented and those which have not been accepted or are still under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). The High Power Pay Committee in their Third Report recommended payment of H.R.A. at slab basis related to the specific pay ranges. These recommendations have been accepted and implemented by the Government.

[*Translation*]

Supply of Inferior Quality of Coal to Power Generating Units

1624. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power generating units generating less power due to inferior quality of coal;

(b) whether any action have been taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c). Inferior quality of coal is one of the factors towards lower power generation from thermal power stations and as such the exact loses of generation on this account alone cannot be quantified. However, complaints regarding inferior quality and oversized coal containing extraneous material, received from various utilities are examined, and suitable remedial action is taken. The collieries supplying oversized coal have been identified and the Department of Coal

has been requested to take necessary action in this regard.

LPG Agencies in Kerala

1625. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for allotting LPG agency to a particular area;

(b) the minimum number of connections required to make an agency viable;

(c) whether agencies have been sanctioned in Kerala with less number of connections; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) The oil industry is normally taking up in a phased manner, locations in the country with population of around 20,000 and above (as per 1981 Census) which offer sufficient potential for viable marketing of LPG;

(b) Viability level of distributorship operation varies from location to location. It depends on local factors such as cost of land for godown, construction, show-room, manpower and other operating expenses. However, LPG distributorships generally become viable with a customer holding of 2000 to 3000;

(c) and (d). At the time of commissioning of an LPG distributorship, its customer level is nil; this is gradually built up by periodical release of new connections. In view of this, there may be some new distributorships in all parts of the country, including in Kerala, with low customer level. Non-materialisation of potential to the extent expected and reduction in the number of new connections to be released on an annual basis are some of the reasons for distributorships remaining for some time at a level of low customer holding.

Price of Light Middle East Crude Petroleum

1626. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the current price of Light Middle East crude petroleum;

(b) the real price in terms of 1973 rate of exchange;

(c) whether our existing contracts for supply of crude shall benefit from the fall in international prices; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) The current prices of some of the Light Middle East Crude Oils are ranging between $ 10.5 to $ 11 per barrel.

(b) The real price after adjusting in accordance with the inflation index, for the above range in terms of 1973 rate of exchange works out between $ 5.98 to $ 6.31/ bbl.

(c) Yes Sir, excepting in the case of U.S.S.R. which matter is still under discussion with them.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Automatic Telephone Exchanges at District Headquarters

1627. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the names of the district headquarters in the country which do not have automatic telephone exchanges; and

(b) the time by which automatic exchanges will be set up at all such places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The information is given in the statement below.

(b) All exchanges at District Headquarters have been planned to be automatised by end of the Seventh Five Year Plan. However, a few cases may spillsover to the early Eighth Plan.

STATEMENT

The names of District Headquarters which do not have automatic exchanges. There are 61 District Headquarters which do not have automatic exchanges. The details (Statewise) are under:-

Sl. No.	*Name*	*Type*	*Capacity*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*
	Bihar States		
1.	Aurangabad	CBNM	200
2.	Bihar Shariff	CBM	720
3.	Godda	CBNM	100
4.	Gopal ganj	CBNM	200
5.	Jehanabad	CBNM	150
6.	Khagaria	"	200
7.	Lohardaga	"	120
8.	Madhepura	"	200
9.	Saharsa	CBM	480
10.	Sahabganj	CBNM	200
11.	Gumla	"	120
12.	Sitamarhi	CBM	600
	Gujarat State		
13.	Bharauch	CBM	2400
14.	Bhuj	"	2520
15.	Himmat Nagar	"	1560

1	2	3	4
	J&K State		
16.	Kargil	CBNM	140
17.	Kupwara	"	120
18.	Leh	"	350
19.	Poonch	"	200
20.	Pulwama	"	100
	Karnataka State		
21.	Mandya	CBM	1560
	Kerala State		
22.	Kasargad	CBM	1200
	Madhya Pradesh State		
23.	Chattarpur	CBM	480
24.	Jhabua	CBNM	240
25.	Panna	"	160
26.	Rajgarh	"	200
27.	Raisen	"	200
28.	Ratlam	CBM	2520
	Maharashtra State		
29.	Alibagh	CBM	480
30.	Parbhan	CBM	1200
	Assam State		
31.	N. Lakhimpur	CBM	480
32.	Nowgong	"	840
33.	Tezpur	"	1080
34.	Karimganj	"	960

1	*2*	*3*	*4*
35.	Barpeta Town	CBNM	150
36.	Mangaldoi	"	200
37.	Golpara	"	200
	Haryana State		
38.	Kurukshetra	CBM	1800
39.	Narnaul	"	720
	Himachal Pradesh		
40.	Una	CBNM	240
	Rajasthan State		
41.	Banswara	CBM	600
42.	Bundi	"	480
43.	Barmer	"	600
	Tamil Nadu State		
44.	Cuddalore	CBM	1940
	Uttar Pradesh		
45.	Chamoli	CBNM	200
46.	Farukhabad	CBM	1200
47.	Ghazipur	"	360
48.	Hamirpur	CBNM	100
49.	Jhansi	CBM	1920
50.	Uttarkashi	CBNM	300
	West Bengal		
51.	Bankura	CBM	1200
52.	Berhampur	"	1560
53.	Jalpaiguri	"	1200

1	2	3	4
	Arunachal Pradesh		
54.	Khonsa	CBNM	100
	Meghalaya State		
55.	Williamnagar	CBNM	150
	Nagaland State		
56.	Mokokchung	CBNM	300
57.	Tuensang	"	200
58.	Wokha	"	200
59.	Zunhe boto	"	100
	Tripura State		
60.	Kailashar	CBNM	200
	Daman-Diu		
61.	Diu	CBNM	200

[*English*]

Inclusion of New Bombay in Bombay Telecommunication Zone

1628. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the units shifting their offices to New Bombay to reduce the pressure on the Metropolitan Bombay city are inconvenienced in their business transaction due to non-inclusion of New Bombay in the metropolitan Bombay telecommunication zone; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b). A few representations received in this regard have been examined. Bombay and New Bombay are treated as two separate local areas since they serve the areas under Bombay and Thane Municipal Corporations and New Bombay Corporation. Therefore, it has not been found feasible to include New Bombay in Bombay Telephone System.

However, Shift of telephones from Bombay Telephone System to New Bombay Telephone system has been permitted for three years upto 31.03.1989.

Development of Coal resources in Orissa

1629. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps for the development of coal resources of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (c). Yes Sir. At present the coal production in Orissa is 8.96 m.t. (1987-88). The production is expected to increase to about 12 m.t. by 1989-90. It will be achieved by augmenting production in existing mines, completion of on-going projects on time, implementation of certain new projects and by reorganisation of some of the existing production units.

Some of the major coal projects, which have been planned in the Ib-valley and Talcher area of Orissa are: Ananta OC, Kalinga OCP, Lingaraj OC, Samleshwari OCP, Lakhanpur OCP etc. These projects are expected to contribute to production in the Eighth and Ninth Plans.

Production of Gas from Krishna Godavari Basin by 1990

1630. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMAMURTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission envisaged a production potential of 3 million cubic metres of gas a day in Krishna-Godavari basin by the end of 1990;

(b) the amount spent so far for the basin for oil and gas production;

(c) the additional amount proposed to be spent on the basin by the end of 1990;

(d) whether it is proposed to set up the Regional Gas Grids for the supply of gas to people and the industries after the completion of the National Grid; and

(e) if so, the details of the plans for exploration of gas etc. in the basin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) The production potential of 3 MMCMD of gas from K.G. Basin is not expected to be reached by 1990.

(b) As on 31.3. 1988, an amount of Rs. 706.55 crores has been spent on exploratory and development drilling in K.G. Basin.

(c) The Plan outlay for 1988-89 and 1989-90 is Rs. 368.79 crores for the K.G. Basin.

(d) Gas pipelines from the production points to consumers points are being laid as per requirement, and these pipelines will eventually firm the regional gas grid as and when such grid is formed.

(e) During the remaining two years of the 7th Plan period i.e. 1988-90 it is proposed to drill 54 exploratory wells with 162800 metres in the K.G. Basin both on land and offshore.

Beside, 9900 standard/ground line kms. of seismic surveys in the onland part and 7500 line kms. of seismic work in the offshore part is also envisaged during 1988-89 and 1989-90.

Withdrawal of Industrial Liberalisation for FERA and other Large Companies

1631. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since withdrawn its proposal for liberalising the Industrial licensing policy for large houses and FERA companies; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does Not arise.

Use of Tetra Lead in Petrol

1632. SHRI P.R. KUMARA MANGALAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India using 3-4 times more tetra lead in petrol than in other countries, leading to heavy pollution;

(b) whether any research work was undertaken in the country on the subject;

(c) if so, with what result;

(d) whether Government are aware that many other countries have stopped the use of tetra lead in petrol; and

(e) if so, the reasons for continuing the use of tera lead in petrol in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (e). The existing B.I.S. specifications for lead content in petrol in India is 0.56 gms/litre (maximum). The average lead content in 87 octane petrol presently produced in the refineries in the country varies from 0.10 to 0.45 gms/litre.

In some of the developed countries, the lead content in gasoline (Petrol) is limited to a maximum of 0.15 gms./litre. Some of them also market a separate grade of lead-free gasoline.

Based on studies undertaken in the country in this area, the Government has initiated action to bring down the lead content of petrol in India to 0.15 gms/litre maximum by installing additional facilities in the refineries, as required.

Long Distance Public Call Offices in Madhya Pradesh in Seventh Plan

1633. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up long distance public call offices in Madhya Pradesh particularly in the tribal/backward areas of the State during the Seventh Plan period;

(b) if so, the details of the sites selected for that purpose;

(c) the number of such long distance public call offices set up, so far; and

(d) the details of funds, if any, allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Communication Facilities in Andhra Pradesh

1634. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the indequate communication services in the remote, interior and tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have conducted any survey to provide communication facilities in those areas;

(c) if so, the details of the survey; and

(d) the number of post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchanges proposed to be opened in those areas and when these are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Government are aware that there is need for opening of post offices in some of the backward/tribal areas of the State.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Justification has been found for opening of post offices at the following places:-

Konganapalli (Chittoor)

Kodamadolu (East Godavari)

Ramachandrapuram (Khammam)

Gandugullapalli (Khammam)

Lingalapalli (Khammam)

Kothapalli (Khammam)

Thummalacharuvu (Mahaboobnagar)

Beechupalli (Mahaboobnagar)

Chilmalmailwar (Mahaboobnagar)

Ryalampadu (Mahaboobnagar)

LND Peta (West Godavari)

Dondapudi (West Godavari)

Noolakunta (Chittoor)

Priyadarsini Jurial Project (Mahaboobnagar)

Burujuvada (Srikakulam)

Tokuru (Vizianagaram)

Price List of Drugs under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987

1635. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drugs and pharmaceutical firms have prepared their price lists of controlled items under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987;

(b) if so, whether most of them have submitted the price lists to Union Government; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines, thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c). The price lists are being received from the various drug companies in Form-5 as prescribed in Fourth Scheduled of DPCO, 1987.

Execution of Ghatapara Hydro-Electric Power Project in Karnataka

1636. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared the execution of Ghatapara Hydro-electric Power Project in Karnataka;

(b) if so, when and the reasons for delay in its execution; and

(c) the total MW of electricity to be added by this project in Karnataka on its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Ghataprabha HE project was cleared by the Planning Commission in 1982. There has been some delay in the execution of the project due to slow progress in power house, civil works, erection of penstocks and delivery of generating unit after conducting model tests by BHEL.

(c) A capacity of 32 MW would be added by this project.

[*Translation*]

Approval to Gauriganga and Dhauliganga Power Projects in Uttar Pradesh

1637. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey projects for hydel generation at Gauriganga and Dhauliganga (Pithoragarh, Uttar Pradesh) have been approved;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount proposed to be spent on each stages of these projects; and

(c) whether the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation is contemplating to conduct any survey in Eastern Ramganga also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b). Investigations of Dhauliganga Hydroelectric Project (State-I) (280 MW), which were sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 276.25 lakhs, had already been completed by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation in 1985. Preliminary steps for investigation of Dhauliganga Inter-mediate stage (380 MW) have been taken up by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation pending sanction of the Government of India to the taking up of these investigations at a cost of Rs. 221.40 lakhs. Sanctions for the taking up of investigations of the three stages of Goriganga Hydroelectric Project by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation have also been issued, as per details given below:-

(i) Goriganga Stage-I (160 MW) for Rs. 172.82 lakhs;

(ii) Goriganga Stage-II (120 MW) for Rs. 160.92 lakhs; and

(iii) Goriganga Stage-III (75 MW) for Rs. 142.88 lakhs.

(c) No, Sir.

[*English*]

Construction of Tunnel for Chamera Hydel Project

1638. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of tunnel for the Chamera Hydel Project under the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation has been completed; and

(b) if not, the action taken or proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b). There are the following three tunnels in the Chamera HE Project (Stage-I):-

(i)	Diversion Tunnel	–496meter long, 10.7 meter dia
(ii)	Power Tunnel (Head race tunnel)	–6.44 Km. long, 9.5 meter dia
(iii)	Tailrace tunnel	– 2.4 Km. long, 9.5 meter dia

The diversion tunnel was completed in August, 1987. The work on the other two tunnels is in progress and these are scheduled to be completed by December, 1990.

Constitution of Telephone Advisory Committees

1639. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telephone Advisory Committees have been constituted in each State and Union Territories;

(b) whether the members of these committees are given certain privileges, remuneration and allotted certain function; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Telephone Advisory Committees have been constituted for each State and Union Territory in the country.

2. The Members nominated on these Advisory Committees are entitled to:-

(i) A free service telephone connection on out-of-turn basis during their tenure of the Committee. No rental will be charged for the telephone and 1200 free calls will be allowed bimonthly;

(ii) To claim TA/DA at the rate admissible for attending the Committee Meetings.

3. The functions of Telecom/Telephone Advisory Committees are:-

(a) Monitoring the performance of telecommunication services and advising the Department for their improvement;

(b) Bringing the telephone using public and the Department of Telecommunications into closer relationship;

(c) Giving the public confidence that their grievances are being properly represented as well as attended to;

(d) Giving publicity to the action being taken by the Department for improving and developing the telephone service;

(e) Assisting the Department in handling the shortages in telephone equipment and lines by invoking cooperation and patience from public; and

(f) Assisting the Department in deciding out-of-turn connections as provided in the rules on a fair and equitable basis by Joint assessment of the comparative merits of various applicants in the waiting list under the 'OYT' and 'NON-OYT' Special categories.

Visit of Industrial Mission to Singapore

1640. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an industrial mission to Singapore has been organised to make efforts for industrial cooperation between India and Singapore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how the visit will boost the mutual trade interests of both countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). A 10 member delegation from Confederation of Engineering Industry (CEI) visited Singapore from 1-3 November, 1988. The visit was aimed to promote industrial cooperation between India and Singapore through technology transfer/joint ventures/ investments and to boost export of Indian engineering products to Singapore. CEI has reported that a MOU, during this visit to Singapore, has been signed between CEI and Singapore Manufacturers Association (SMA) to promote inter-action between the companies engaged in the engineering industries of both countries.

Setting up of New Power Plants In Gujarat

1641. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD:
SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in power-demand in units experienced by the Gujarat State Electricity Board during the last three years;

(b) the actual power generated and demand-supply gap of power in Gujarat during the above period, year-wise;

(c) the details of the proposals made by the Gujarat State Electricity Board to the Central Electricity Authority for setting up of new power plants, their installed capacity and the total cost involved, plantwise; and

(d) the Government's action thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (d). The requisite information is given in Statements I and II below.

STATEMENT I

Details of Power Supply Position and Energy Generation in Gujarat

1. *Power Supply Position (MU)*

	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
Requirement	14128	15968	18164
(% Increase of Requirement over previous year)	(12.4)	(13.0)	(13.7)
Availability		13866	15431
17419			
Shortage		262	537
745			
% Shortage		1.8	3.4
4.1			

2. *Energy Generation (MU)*

		Generation (MU)		
Board/State	*Category*	*1985-86*	*1986-87*	*1987-88*
G.E.B.	Thermal	10427	12119	14773
	Hydro	291	481	357
	Total	10718	12600	15130

		Generation (MU)		
Board/State	*Category*	*1985-86*	*1986-87*	*1987-88*
A.E.Co.	Thermal	2214	2082	2031
Gujarat Total	Thermal	12641	14201	16804
	Hydro	291	481	357
	Total	12932	14682	17161

STATEMENT-II

GUJARAT : STATUS OF SCHEMES CLEARED/PENDING

Sl.No.	*NAME OF THE PROJECT*	*Cap (MW)*	*Est. Cost Rs. Crs.*	*Date of receipt in CEA*	*Date of clearance of CEA*	*Pending clearance linkage/ Env.etc.*	*Sec.29 of E (S) Act compiled with Yes/No*	*Remarks*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*
A. CEA CLEARED								
1	Kutch Lingnite Extn. (Unit3) (T)	1 x 70 = 70	69.2	9/82	6.11.82		No.	
2.	Comb-Cycle gas based plant at Gandhar (T)	4 x 100 (GT) 2 x 100 (ST) = 600	518.0	3/87	27.6.88 (Appd. by circulation	Gas availability & associated T & D system)	Yes	Cleared subject to : i) Conf. from Min. of Petroleum for availability of 2.2. MCMD gas on sustained basis from Gandhar gas fields. ii) Clearance of associated T & D system by CEA.
3.	Utran G.T. Comb. cycle (T)	3 x 30 (GT) + 1x45 (ST) = 135	152.68	10/86 (I) 5/88 (II)	10.8.88	Associated transmission system. Water availibility	Yes	Cleared subject to : i) Scheme to be sanctioned only after finalistion by GEB and clearance of associated transmission system by CEA.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
								ii) Completion of water supply arrangement by GIDC to suit the water requirement of this project.
4.	Comb. Cycle Joint Captive Plant of Mys. GIPCL in Baroda Distt.(T)	3 x 30 (GT) = 1x45 (ST) = 135	148.7	12/87	10.8.87	water availability	Yes	Cleared subject to the condition that GIPCL should obtain conf. reg. availability of 170M³ additional water.
1.	TECHNO ECONOMIC APPRAISAL FOUND TO BE IN ORDER							
2.	—NIL — UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION							
	—NIL—							
3	AWAITING LINKAGES/ CLEARANCES							
1.	Narmade Stage I & II (I)	4x500 =2000	1200.0	5/82(I)	Coal linkage and Env. clearance from Centre.		Yes	Last communication sent on 31.10.88

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Stage I	2 x 500 = 1000	1125.0 (Rev.)	7/87 (II) (Rev.)				
2.	Sikka Extn. Stage III (T)	2 x 210 =420	441.5	11/86	Coal linkage, water availability and Env. clearance from Centre.		Yes	Last communication sent on 31.10.88
3.	Ankleshwar G.T. Comb. cycle (T)	30 MW	55.9	8/88	Env. clearance from Centre & State, National Airport Authority. water availability.		No	Last communication sent on 31.10.88
4.	Vatwa G.T. Comb. cycle plant at Ahmedabad (T) M/s. A.E. Co. Ltd.	100 MW	139.5	8/88	Gas availability. Env. clearance from Centre & State, National Airport Authority, water availability.		No	— do—
5.	Karjan LBC(H)	2 x 1.5. =3	5.7 (I) (7.0) (II)	7/86 3/88			No	Replise to Hydro Plg. aspects received from have State in 6/88 have been examined and some furdher clarification have been sought from the State. The project Authorities have been requested to depute their Engineers.
6.	Gas based combined cycle project in south Saurashtra near Pipavav (T).	750	563.2	7/87	Fuel linkage, water availability		Yes	Last communication on 31.10.88

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7.	Bandhav (T) (MP/GUJ)	4 x 500 = 2000	990.6 (I) 1679 .4 (II)	5/81 6/86	Coal linkage, Env. clearance from Centre incld. forest, National Airport Authority.		Yes	DOP had intimated that the possibility of implementing Bandhav TPS (2000 MW) with Soviet assistance in the Central Sector for benefits in 8th Plan should be explored as desired by the Chairman, CEA vide his letter dated 25.8.88 to DOP has expressed the view that assistance from USSR in respect of Boilers for 500 MW units which would be with supper critical parameters. should presently be limited only to Vindhyachal St. II (1000 MW) till adequate experience is gathered on on them.
8.	Mand (T) (MP GUJ)	2 x 210 = 420	3709.9	10/84	Coal linkage, Env. clearance from State and Cente incld. forest, National Airport Authority, water availability.		Yes	
C	NOT BEING PROCESSED IN CEA							
1.	Gas based TPS at Mahuva (T)	2 x 210 = 420	132.0	8/79			No	Fuel availability from Tapti gas fields was not tied up.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
								As such scheme was dropped and GEB was informed accordingly in 7/80.
2.	Kandla Replacement of old Units (T)	1 x 60 = 60	28.1	10/79			No	Coal availability was not confirmed.
3.	Small D.G. Sets at various locations	11x 4 + 8x2 = 60	33.0	5/85			No.	GEB were advised in 12/85 that within the powers with vested them, the justification of each of the D.G. Set. can be taken judiciously by them and the investment decision within Rs 5 crores could be taken after justifying the same.
4.	Simultaneous Cycle Gas based plant at (i) Balol- 6 x 5.5. MW (ii) Kalol- 6x 5.5. MW (iii) Ankleshwsar - 6 x 5.5 MW	99	119.4	1/87			Yes	During the descussion in 2/88 the GEB intimated that they propose to install Balol and Kalol TPS in Joint Sector for which they will send a fresh report. Also they propose to modify the scheme for Ankaleshwar TPS. In view of above, this scheme has been dropped in 2/88 and GEB informed accordingly. In 6/88 GEB stated that against two small stations at

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
								GEB in Balol and Kalol, Govt. of Gujarat have now decided to allow A.E. Co. to set up 100 MW gas based plant for which separate project report. The same has been received in 8/88 from A.E.Co. which is under examination. Scheme for Ankleshwar GT. comb. cycle (30 MW) received in 8/88 is under examination.

Capacity Utilisation by Bengal Immunity Ltd.

1642. DR. PHULRENU GUHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bengal Immunity Ltd. is now working to its full capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to improve its working?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Due to shortage of working capital, Bengal Immunity Limited is unable to produce several items to full capacity. In order to improve its working, a Rehabilitation package has been drawn up for the company with the help of Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India.

Memorandum by Consumer Associations to MRTP Commission

1643. SHRI KESHORAO PARDHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given on 23.8.1988 to Unstarred Question No. 3897 regarding Memorandum by a Consumer Association to M.R.T.P. Commission and state:

(a) whether the M.R.T.P. Commission has taken decision on the various points made in the Memorandum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). The matter is still under the consideration of M.R.T.P. Commission and is expected to be finalised shortly.

Petrochemical Projects in Collaboration with Saudi Arabia

1644. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a Petrochemical project in Orissa in collaboration with Saudi Arabia;

(b) if so, the number of petrochemical projects proposed to be set up in the country with the assistance of Saudi Arabia and when; and

(c) the details of places identified for the location of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c). Possibilities of setting up joint venture petrochemical projects with Saudi Arabia are being evaluated from the view points of techno economic and other relevant considerations. The question of working out other details will arise only after the evaluation on hand is completed.

Poor Production at Trivandrum T.V. Studio

1645. SHRI K. MOHAN DAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of the Trivandrum T.V. Studio are poor in quality; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to improve their quality?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN-

FORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) It has always been the endeavour of Doordarshan to improve upon its programme, including those telecast from Doordarshan Kendra, Trivandrum. The staff working in the Kendra are sponsored for attending Workshops and trainings from time to time. Surveys conducted by Audience Research Units and letters received from the viewers are also taken into consideration for improvement in the programmes. The Programme Adivisory Committees at various Doordarshan Kendras consisting of eminent non-official members, have also been set up to suggest and advise the Kendras for bringing improvement in their programmes.

Malayalam TV Programmes in Kerala

1646. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the direct transmission of Malayalam programmes in Kerala is available only at certain T.V. centres;

(b) if so, the areas which do not have this facility at present;

(c) whether there is any plan to cater the uncovered areas in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) The programmes produced by Doordarshan Kendra, Trivandrum (including programmes in Malayalam) are telecast/relayed by TV transmitters located at Trivandrum, Cochin and Calicut.

(b) The TV transmitters located dat Palghat, Cannanore, Kasargod, Kalpetta and Malappuram do not relay the programmes of Trivandrum Doordarshan.

(c) No, Sir

(d) Does not arise.

T.V. Coverage in Kerala

1647. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total population of Kerala covered by T.V. transmission at present;

(b) whether there is any plan to cover the entire population in the next two years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c). TV service is, at present, available to an estimated 85 per cent population of Kerala. On establishment of a high power (10 KW) TV transmitter at Calicut (in replacement of the existing low power transmitter) and a low power (100 W) TV transmitter each at Idukki and Pathanamthitta under implementation, TV service in the State would be further strengthened. Extension of TV service to the remaining uncovered parts of the country (including those in Kerala) can be carried out in a phased manner depending upon the future availability of resources for this purpose.

Vacancies of SC/ST in A.I.R./T.V. in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi

1648. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Tribes and Backward Classes lying vacant in All India Radio Stations and Television Centres in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) There is no reservation for Backward classes. Reservation rosters for Group 'A' and Group 'B' posts are maintained on all India basis and not Station or Kendras basis. The number of Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts reserved for SC/ST categories lying vacant in AIR Stations/ Doordarshan Kendras in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi are as under:

Punjab	—	11
Haryana	—	2
Delhi	—	57

(b) Appropriate action to fill up such vacant posts is taken on a continuous basis.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Coal Stock Yards by CIL In Madhya Pradesh

1649. SHRI K.N. PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited had decided to set up Coal stock yards at twelve places in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of yards set up so far and those actually functioning; and

(c) the time by which the remaining yards are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (c). Coal India Ltd., in consultation with the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, had decided earlier to open 12 road borne stockyards in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Accordingly, 5 such stockyards were commissioned at Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior, Katni and Dongergarh. However, with the change of policy to move coal by rail, rail borne stockyards were opened at Indore, Gwalior and Raipur. The location of Dongergarh was changed to Raipur. the road borne stockyards at Katni and Bhopal were discontinued with the introduction of rail movement to stockyards. Later, keeping in view the economic viability, demand potential as also the operational problems, stockyard at Raipur was closed and the stockyard at Gwalior is under the process of being closed. Stockyard at Bhopal has again been opened but due to proximity to the coalfields, it has been earmarked to be fed by road only.

There are, presently, thus, three ground stockyards functioning at Indore, Gwalior and Bhopal in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

In addition to these stockyards, CIL is, at present, also operating six notional stockyards at Jabalpur, Ratlam, Raipur, Satna, Katni and Maihar where distribution is on ex-wagon basis.

[*English*]

Construction of Tailpool Dam near Panchet Reservoir

1650. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to construct Tailpool Dam near Panchet

Reservoir;

(b) whether a large area of both Bihar and West Bengal will be effected by this Dam; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide employment to the land loosers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) The Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) is constructing Tailpool Dam at Panchet.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

[*Translation*]

Losses Suffered by Akaltara Unit of Cement Corporation of India

1651. DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Akaltara Cement Unit of Cement Corporation of India in Madhya Pradesh is running in loss;

(b) if so, the extent of loss suffered by the unit during 1987-88; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 556.87 lakhs (provisional)

(c) CCI have taken a number of steps to improve the performance of Akaltara Unit. Some of the steps include modernisation of the plant by installation of pre-calcinator/ secondary firing, increased emphasis on preventive maintenance, installation of equipment for energy conservation, stricter control over quality of coal in order to improve Kiln output etc.

[*English*]

Production and Export of Iodised Salt

1652. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to include the salt industry under priority sector for financial assistance;

(b) the target of production of iodised salt in the country for 1988-89;

(c) whether the country has achieved self sufficiency in the production of common salt;

(d) whether sale is exported to other countries; and

(e) if so, to which countries and since when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The target of production of iodized salt is fixed at 22 lakh tonnes during 1988-89.

(c) to (e). Yes, Sir. Export of salt commenced in 1956 and it is exported to Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Iraq, North Korea, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Mauritius, Maldives, Indonesia, Nigeria and Tanzania and to Middle East countries.

Criteria/Norms for Providing Postal Facilities

1653. CHAUDHARY KHURSHID AHMED:
SHRI HET RAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria/norms, if any, laid down by Government to provide postal facilities corresponding with the growth of new areas/colonies in a city to keep with the demand;

(b) whether any comprehensive study has been made to know the new areas/colonies in various cities in the country where postal facilities are lacking and those where such facilities have become inadequate with the growth of the area;

(c) if so, the details thereof stating the areas which are lacking in postal facilities in Haryana; and

(d) whether Government have formulated any plan to provide adequate postal facilities in the new areas and to augment the existing inadequate facilities to cope with demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The information is furnished in the Statement given below.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) All Circles have formulated proposals in the light of the criteria set forth. In so far as Haryana is concerned the following developing areas have been identified for opening of new post offices.

i) Panchkula (Sectors 4 & 15)
ii) Industrial Area Daruhera
iii) Education Board Campus Bhiwani
iv) Engineering College Campus Murthal.

(d) Yes, Sir.

STATEMENT

Criteria adopted for providing postal facilities to new urban areas/colonies

i) Proposals for post offices in Satellite towns/colonies coming up as part of the urban development/housing plans of State Governments and Union Territories are dealt with as part of the Plan schemes of the Department of posts for purposes of sanction of new establishment.

ii) A minimum anticipated work load of five hours per day will be necessary.

iii) In cases not covered by (i) above new post offices may be opened provided matching savings are available to the extent required to meet the staff costs involved.

iv) In all cases, a post office opened in an urban area is required to be funancially self-supporting; further no new post office is opened in an urban area within a distance of 2 kms from an existing post office (1.5 km in the case of cities with a population of 20 lakhs or more.)

Electrification of Villages in Moradabad, U.P.

1654. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified so far in Moradabad district of Uttar Pradesh under the Rural Electrification Programme and the number of villages yet to be electrified;

(b) the details of steps taken and the time by which these villages are likely to be electrified; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to make use of solar energy for lighting purposes and running industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) 2067 villages are reported to have been electrified in Moradabad district of Uttar Pradesh as on 30.9.1988 leaving behind 406 villages yet to be electrified.

(b) 95 villages are expected to be electrified in Moradabad district during 1988-89. All the remaining villages are likely to be electrified by the end of 8th Plan subject to availability of resources and other inputs.

(c) 223 villages in U.P. have been provided with solar photovoltaic street lights. Ten such systems have been provided in Moradabad. Two experimental solar photovoltaic power plants (2 Kw capacity each) have been set up in Dehradun and Sultanpur districts of Uttar Pradesh, and two more plants of similar capacity are under installation. In addition, about 200 solar photovoltaic water pumping systems for drinking water supply and micro irrigation purposes and 170 numbers of community lighting and TV systems have also been installed in U.P. 100 photovoltaic lighting units in individual homes are also under installation.

Popularisation of AIR/TV Programmes

1655. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to popularise the programmes presented on Television and Radio;

(b) whether any guidelines are being followed by Doordarshan and All India Radio in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c). Popularising the programmes presented on Radio and Television so that they could be informative, interesting and at the same time educative and become an input in the nation-building tasks, as per Media Policy guidelines laid down, is a continuous process and it has always been the endeavour of All India Radio and Doordarshan to improve their quality. The facilities for hardware and software are being improved by All India Radio and Doordarshan. Programme Advisory Committees at the Stations/Kendras advise in the improvement of programmes. Workshops and training courses are periodically organised with the help of Senior-Staff and foreign experts to train the programmes in modern techniques of programme presentation. Competition in Music and Playwriting are held for induction of new talents. Audience Research Units review programme patterns taking into account listeners' tastes and preferences.

Setting Up of Tyre and Tube Project at Balasore, Orissa

1656. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued a letter of intent to set up a tyre and tube

project at Balasore, a 'No Industry District' in Orissa;

(b) whether the Construction of the Project is held up for want of Capital Goods clearance; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

LPG Connections

1657. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG connections in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether there is a long waiting list for getting L.P.G. connections; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (c). As on the Ist October, 1988 there were about 146.20 lakh LPG customers and 36.2 lakh persons on the waiting list in the country. Statewise details are given in the Statement below.

STATEMENT

(*In Lakhs*)

Name of State/Union Territory	*No. of LPG Customers*	*No. of Persons on the waiting list*
1	*2*	*3*
1. Andhra Pradesh	11.89	0.78
2. Arunachal Pradesh	0.05	0.02
3. Assam	2.01	0.28
4. Bihar	4.08	0.59
5. Goa	1.02	0.35
6. Gujarat	14.66	4.53
7. Haryana	3.61	1.88
8. Himachal Pradesh	0.80	0.12
9. Jammu & Kashmir	1.32	0.10
10. Karnataka	7.25	0.53

	1	*2*	*3*
11.	Kerala	4.25	0.48
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9.44	1.96
13.	Maharashtra	27.67	7.55
14.	Manipur	0.24	0.03
15.	Meghalaya	0.18	0.02
16.	Mizoram	0.12	0.04
17.	Nagaland	0.14	0.03
18.	Orissa	1.61	0.12
19.	Punjab	5.03	2.10
20.	Rajasthan	4.79	0.73
21.	Sikkim	0.04	0.01
22.	Tamil Nadu	12.60	1.17
23.	Tripura	0.16	0.07
24.	Uttar Pradesh	14.63	5.88
25.	West Bengal	6.90	1.86
Union Territories			
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.02	0.004
2.	Chandigarh	1.06	0.44
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.03	0.004
4.	Delhi	10.30	4.44
5.	Daman & Diu	0.05	0.04
6.	Lakshadweep	—	—
7.	Pondicherry	0.25	0.03
	TOTAL	146.20	36.188

Increase in Prices of Polymers and Synthetic Fibres

1658. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the prices of polymers and synthetic fibre and there is also shortage of these products in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to bring down the prices and to ensure easy availability of these products to the users?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c). The prices of polymers to consumer units have considerably increased primarily due to steep increase in international prices of these products; at present the domestic availability of polymers is not adequate and around 50% of their requirement is met through imports.

The import levies on polymers have been reduced thrice since March 1987. Additional capacities for the manufacture of polymers have been approved and are in the process of being established.

Of late, there has been an uptrend in prices of synthetic fibres reportedly due to increase in cost of certain inputs. The situation is being kept under close watch and suitable corrective measures will be taken at the appropriate time if found necessary. The domestic production of synthetic fibres is adequate to meet the indigenous demand.

Shifting of Industries from Metropolitan Cities

1659. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised a package of incentives to facilitate shifting of industrial units from Metropolitan cities to other approved areas;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof; and

(c) the role assigned to State Governments in the implementation of the proposed policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not as yet arise.

Take-Over and Merger of Industrial Houses/Companies

1660. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently take-over and merger of various industrial houses and companies particularly in West Bengal have taken place,

(b) if so, the details of major merger and take-over and their likely impact on the particular line of business trading, manufacture etc., carried on by the companies concerned;

(c) whether at the time of sanctioning such mergers and take-overs; Government prescribed any undertaking to be given for safeguarding the interests of the workers by the successor holding companies' management; and if so, in what form; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVEL-

OPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). It is presumed that the reference is to take-over and merger as contemplated under Section 23 (4) and 23 (2) of the MRTP Act, 1969 respectively involving MRTP Companies. During the period from 01.01.1988 to 31.10.1988, Central Government has approved 18 applications for amalgamation under Section 23 (2) and 14 applications for take-over under Section 23 (4) of the said Act. However, Central Government has not approved any application for merger or take-over of any company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 in the State of West Bengal during the said period.

(c) and (d). No condition asking the companies to furnish such a specific undertaking was imposed by Central Government in the MRTP Orders in respect of the cases mentioned above.

Coal Reserves Blocked by Jharia Town

1661. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jharia town has blocked practically half the coal reserves available in the area;

(b) if so, whether any expert Committee has been set up to consider the desirability of evacuating the Jharia town and putting up a new city and small towns near it;

(c) whether for want of proper sand stowing beneath the existing Jharia town coal-mining, area, fires are raging and suggestions have been made earlier also to shift the town; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard to utilise fully the coal reserves available in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) According to an inventory made by Geological Survey of India, the total reserves of coal of different categories in the Jharia Coalfields are estimated at 16,986.00 million tonnes. Out of this, about 391 million tonnes are estimated to be under Jharia Township.

(b) A Committee has been set up by the Department of Coal on 10/2/86 to draw up plans for improving housing and water supply in the Jharia Coalfields and to monitor execution of such works. A sub-group of this Committee has recommended development of four new townships with a view to shifting the total population of Jharia Coalfields likely to be affected due to mining operations.

(c) There are, in all, 70 major fires in Jharia Coalfields of which six have been extinguished so far. There is, however, no fire immediately beneath Jharia town. Even in the past, certain expert groups had made suggestions to shift Jharia town.

(d) As Jharia Coalfields is the only source of cooking coal in the country, the Government will give full and careful consideration to the recommendations of the Committee as and when they are finalised.

Oil Exploration in West Bengal

1662. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in exploration and drilling for oil and gas reserves in the offshore area in West Bengal particularly the Canning area; and

(b) the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) On the basis of exploratory surveys conducted off the coast of West Bengal, 3 wells have been drilled by ONGC in an area of 150 Kms. (Approximately) southwest of Canning. The fourth well is under drilling and has reached a depth of 1624 metres as on 4.11.1988.

(b) So far, no success has been achieved.

Price of Levy Cement

1663. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the retention price of levy cement is being raised;

(b) whether the cement industry has made a representation for the enhancement of the retention price of levy cement on account of increase in various input costs;

(c) to what extent the retention price of levy cement has helped the industry; and

(d) if so, the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The retention price of levy cement has been increased by Rs. 47/- per tonne w.e.f. 7th September, 1988.

(b) No representation for enhancement of retention price of levy cement has been received from the Cement Manufactures Association after the retention price was last increased on 7th September, 1988.

(c) and (d). The said increase in the retention price will help the cement industry to increase the sales realisation by Rs. 47 per tonne on the quantity of levy cement supplied by them on or after 7th September, 1988.

Post Office Small Saving Scheme

1664. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts is given any appreciation and share in the distribution of funds collected under Small Savings Scheme through Post Offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with total amount collected under the scheme during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 and the targets fixed for 1988-89 in each circle; and

(c) if not, the formula adopted for the distribution and utilisation of the funds collected under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Department of Posts is not given any share out of the amount collected under the Small Savings Schemes through post offices. The Department is remunerated on the basis of a formula.

(b) The collections and the remuneration paid to the Department are as under:

Year	*Gross Collection*	*Net Collection*	*Remuneration paid (Rs. in crores)*
1985-86	8434.53	4295.59	111
1986-87	8135.04	3200.96	166
1987-88	9518.24	3646.56	187

No targets are fixed for the circles by the Department. The target fixed by the Ministry of Finance for 1988-89 for the entire country is Rs. 3700 crores.

(c) Out of the net collection from a State, three-fourth is advanced as loan to that State. The interest to the depositors and other expenditure is also met from the collections. The formula for remunerating the Department is based on the number of transactions carried out at the post offices.

Popularisation of Postal Life Insurance

1665. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for the popularisation of the Postal Life Insurance during the Seventh Plan;

(b) whether it is proposed to extend the scheme to cover the spouses and wards of Government and public Undertaking employees;

(c) if so, the likely date by which it is proposed to be introduced;

(d) the total number of policy holders in each State and the Armed Forces and the amount collected there under during the last three years, year-wise;

(e) whether two percent Commission is proposed to be given to those operating the scheme in the Armed Forces and if so, the date by which it will be implemented; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Postal Life Insurance schemes are not covered under the Five Year Plans. However, various publicity measures are being taken for popularising the PLI.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The total number of policy holders in each Circle and Armed Forces and the amount of premium collected thereunder during the last years is given in Statements I and II given below.

(e) No, sir.

(f) Does not arise.

STATEMENT I

Circle-wise break up of total number of policies in force for the years 1985-86, 1986-87 & 1987-88

Sl. No.	*Name of Circle*	*No. of policies 1985-86*	*No. of policies 1986-87*	*No. of policies 1987-88*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
1.	Andhra Pradesh	98,347	1,03,604	1,10,468
2.	Bihar	26,237	26,825	26,515
3.	Delhi	35,489	37,851	40,173
4.	Gujarat	1,58,004	1,66,389	1,84,314

1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	15,810	16,964	18,369
6.	Karnataka	73,226	79,147	83,915
7.	Kerala	32,151	33,173	33,370
8.	Madhya Pradesh	48,577	56,242	59,346
9.	Maharashtra	1,01,853	1,14,235	1,20,246
10.	North East	23,798	25,124	25,963
11.	North West	48,686	52,799	57,092
12.	Orissa	47,223	52,311	58,909
13.	Rajasthan	32,054	33,528	37,332
14.	Tamil Nadu	1,33,830	1,45,832	1,58,900
15.	Uttar Pradesh	60,068	59,594	64,352
16.	West Bengal	1,00,898	1,04,397	1,15,557
17.	A.P.S. (Armed Forces)	1,79,728	1,73,510	1,66,711
	TOTAL	12,15,981	12,81,425	13,61,532

STATEMENT II

Circle-Wise break up of PLI Premium Income in Rs.-lakhs

Sl. No.	*Circle*	*1985-86 (Rs. in lakhs)*	*1986-87 (Rs. in lakhs)*	*1987-88 (Rs. in lakhs)*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
1.	Andhra Pradesh	350.43	438.14	447.31
2.	Bihar	118.99	139.64	161.42
3.	Delhi	185.66	197.46	230.36
4.	Gujarat	458.42	574.48	688.46

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	93.18	145.42	132.56
6.	Karnataka	244.80	262.80	345.31
7.	Kerala	98.58	110.40	157.54
8.	Madhya Pradesh	79.01	137.96	341.70
9.	Maharashtra	331.05	432.44	440.98
10.	North East	67.12	106.70	103.95
11.	North West	190.87	161.70	121.44 Pb. 135.35 Hy. 48.56 HP
12.	Orissa	196.19	52.27	272.85
13.	Rajasthan	165.34	110.25	123.84
14.	Tamil Nadu	356.57	459.37	568.78
15.	Uttar Pradesh	168.72	178.75	247.94
16.	West Bengal	352.54	298.26	409.24
17.	APS (Armed Forces)	533.28	626.76	569.89
		3990.75	4432.76	5347.89

Note: In respect of Orissa Circle a part of the premium income for 1986-87 was accounted in the year 1987-88 and hence the low figure for that year.

AIR/TV Transmitters at Hamirpur, H.P.

1666. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken possession of the land for the installation of a Radio Station and T.V. transmitter at Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the dates on which the land was acquired and payment made to the State Government for this purpose; and

(c) the time by which the construction and installation work of the project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). The land site was taken over on 18.3.1988.

However, payment has not been made so far, as the price demanded by the State Government is exorbitant. The matter has been taken up with the State Government.

The location of TV Transmitter is under consideration in consultation with the State Government.

(c) The construction work at the site can be taken up only after the matter regarding the cost of land is finally settled.

New Telephone Connections in Andhra Pradesh

1667. SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applicants on the waiting list for new telephone connections in Andhra Pradesh as on date; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The total number of applicants on the waiting list for new telephone connections in Andhra Pradesh as on 1.11.1988 is 59,143.

(b) The objectives of the Seventh Plan is to meet the telephone demand by 1.4.1990 as mentioned below:

Unit	*Meeting average demand for the period registered upto*
Metro Distts.	30.9.1986
Major Distts.	30.9.1986
Minor Distts.	1.4.1987
Circles	
Max I (large size exchanges)	1.4.1987
Max II (medium size exchanges)	1.4.1988
Max III (small) & Manual exchanges.	1.4.1990

The remaining waiting list shall be cleared progressively during the Eighth Plan period. Measures are being taken to expand the telephone network accordingly.

Manufacture of Telephone Exchanges

1668. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the units which are manufacturing telephone exchanges and their equipments in the country at present and their annual production;

(b) whether these units are not in a position to meet the increasing demand of telephone exchanges; and

(c) if so, what is Government's policy in regard to establishing more such units or to give this work to private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) A statement is given below.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The approach for industrial approval in this sector is liberal. Private sector units have also been allowed to set up manufacture of telephone exchanges upto a capacity of 2000 lines.

STATEMENT

M/s. Indian Telephone Industries Limited are at present manufacturing telephone exchanges and their equipments at their factories in Bangalore, Rae Bareli, Palghat, Mankapur, Naini and Srinagar. The annual production during 1987-88 was of the order of Rs. 493.43 crores.

In addition to M/s. Indian Telephone Industries Limited, industrial licence has also been issued recently to the following units for the manufacture of Rural Automatic Exchanges:

i) M/s. Punjab Communications Limited.

ii) M/s. Maharashtra Electronics Corporation Limited

iii) M/s. Radiant Electronics Limited.

Installation of Public Call Offices Under Multi Access Rural Radio System in Himachal Pradesh

1669. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the programme for the installation of Public Call Offices under the Multi Access Rural Radio System in Himachal Pradesh has made any headway in the Seventh Plan;

(b) If so, the names of the Public Call Offices installed under this system during the financial year 1985-86, 1986-87, 1986-88 and 1988-89 separately, circle-wise ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether any Public Call Offices under the system would be installed during the remaining period of the Seventh Plan and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. 13 MARR systems are planned for Himachal Pradesh Circle. Survey report for 2 systems has been prepared. Estimate had been sanctioned for Hamirpur. One MARR system with 17 Long distance Public Telephones had been ordered to be diverted to Himachal Pradesh from Punjab, of course due to operational needs of Punjab it could not be diverted. Letter of intent for one more system has been placed on I.T.I.

(c) The equipment has not been received as yet. One system was ordered diversion from Punjab. However, due to emergent operational needs in Punjab this equipment could not be diverted. The number of Long distance Public Telephones targetted for installation during the last two years of the Seventh Plan are as follows:

Year	No. of LDPTs targetted
1988-89	20
1989-90	157
Total :	177

[*Translation*]

Pay Scales of Telegraphmen Group 'D'

1670. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received memorandum from the National Union of Telegraph Traffic for restricting the pay scales of telegraphmen Group D; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The question of revision of pay scales of Telegraph men was considered by the IV Pay Commission and the Pay Commission has recommend a pay scale of Rs. 750-940 as for all other Group 'D' cadres. The issue has been recently examined by IV pay Commission and also by the High Power Committee on cadre restructuring and they have not recommended any change in the pay scale of Telegraphmen.

[*English*]

Security Measures Taken for AIR and Doordarshan Kendras in States

1671. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI K. PRADHANI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some people got into the All India Radio, Bangalore and after locking the staff, got their message broadcast over the Radio;

(b) the action taken against the rowdies; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to tighten the security in All India Radio and Doordarshan Kendras?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Thirteen persons claiming to be members of the Kannada Ranadhira Pade (Kannada Warriors) were apprehended by the Police and booked under Section 143,147,149,448 353,393,343, 506 of IPC and in addition Section 2 (8) (A) of Official Secrets Act. All of them were released on bail with the instruction that they will be required to produce themselves as and when required and during bail will not indulge in such activities. Charge sheets have since been filed against the accused. A transmission executive of AIR, Bangalore, who was among those apprehended, has been placed under suspension and has since been chargesheeted.

(c) Besides the security instructions conveyed through regular circulars, all Stations have also been directed to take steps to tighten the security. All State Governments/ Union Territories have been requested to provide adequate protection to AIR/Doordarshan installations as well as the staff working therein. At Bangalore steps have been taken to post a security cordon around the AIR for round-the clock vigil to avoid any further disturbance.

Development of Urdu Teleprinters

1672. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for development of Urdu teleprinters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which an Urdu teleprinter would be available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Extraction of Coal in Gujarat

1673. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge quantities of coal are lying buried in Gujarat which cannot be extracted through traditional methods;

(b) whether a new method has been evolved in the West for extraction of such deposits; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to adopt this new method to extract the rich deposits of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K.JAFFAR SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Commission, while drilling for oil, has discovered large reserves of coal tentatively estimated at about 63 billion tonnes in North Gujarat at depths ranging from about 700 to 1,700 metres. Because of the great depth and the nature of the super-incumbent strata, recovery of this coal is not amenable to conventional methods of mining.

(b) Research and development work in regard to underground gasification of coal/lignite deposits at depths upto about 800 metres is being carried on in USSR, UK, USA, France, Belgium and Germany for the last several years.

(c) A pilot project for gasification of '*in-situ*' coal near Mehsana city in Gujarat to determine the feasibility of gasifying these coal deposits is under consideration.

Import of Tyres

1674. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the value in rupees of tyres imported under revised import policy; and

(b) its impact on natural rubber trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No. import of tyres have taken place under the scheme announced in March, 1988 for the import of certain categories of truck and bus tyres at reduced rate of duty.

(b). Does not arise.

Technology Mission for Oil Extraction

1675. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a technology mission to work on oil extraction techniques;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when it is going to be set up; and

(c) the time by which the technology mission on oil extraction technique is expected to complete its works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Blow up of Oil and Gas from ONGC well at Broach (Gujarat)

1676. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge blow up of oil and gas from a well of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in Broach District of Gujarat has been reported;

(b) whether a few persons of Gujarat have been killed including some villagers; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) There was an uncontrolled flow of oil and gas from one ONGC well in Broach district on October 28, 1988. This was brought under control.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Rise in Prices of Bulk Vitamins

1677. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that price decontrol of bulk vitamins has resulted in steep increase in their prices; and

(b) what was the price of each bulk vitamin drug before the drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 and what is the present price?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) and (b). The required details to the extent available,are given in the Statement below. The Prices of vitamin 'A' Bulk drug were educed after Government's intervention to the present level.

STATEMENT

Sl.No.	*Name of Vitamin*	*Unit*	*Price Fixed under DPCO-1979. (Rs. P)*	*Current Prices (Rs)*
1.	Vitamin 'A' Acetate, Dry Powder 0.5 MIU/gm.	1000 MIU	1297.86	2100.00
2.	Vitamin ' A' Palmitate I MIU/gm.	1000 MIU	990.55	13000.00
3.	Vitamin A Palmitate 1.7 MIU/gm	1000 MIU	1020.67	1300.00
4.	Vitamin BI Hcl. (Oral)	Kg.	950.00	1176.00
5.	Vitamin BL Hcl. (Amp)	Kg.	1005.00	
6.	Vitamin BL Mononitrate	Kg.	1011.50	1228.00
7.	Vitamin B 2	Kg.	1820.00	2348.00
8.	Vitamin B-6 (Pyridoxin HCL)	Kg.	(pooled price) 1200.00	1571.00
9.	Vitamin B-12 (Cyanacobalamin)	Gm.	156.00	220.00
10.	Vitamin B-12 (Hydroxyoabalamin)	Gm.	221.00	350.00
11.	Vitamin C Plain	Kg.	219.50 (Sarabhai M chemicals) 240.10 (Jayant vitamins)	258.81

Sl.No.	Name of Vitamin	Unit	Price Fixed under DPCO-1979. (Rs. P)	Current Prices (Rs)
12.	Vitamin C Coated	Kg.	230.50 (Sarabhai M Chemicals)	
		Kg.	251.10 (Jayant Vitamins)	270.39
13.	Vitamin D 3	Gm.	25.65	35.05
14.	Vitamin E	Kg	552.01	730.00
15.	Vitamin P (Rutin)	Kg.	610.78	1075.00
16.	Folic Acid	Kg.	2631.62	3241.04
17.	Nicotinic Acid	Kg.	110.00	147.35
18.	Niacinamide	Kg.	157.00	190.00

[*Translation*]

R.T.P. Employees Under Central Telegraph Office, New Delhi

1678. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Reserved Trained Poll employees working under Central Telegraph Office, New Delhi and since when they have been working there;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to absorb them permanently; and

(c) when all the RTP employees will be made permanent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) 152 R.T.P. employees are working under CTO, New Delhi since 1982-83.

(b) and (c). The RTP employees will be absorbed against regular posts as and when they become available, However, in view of significant proportion of the existing staff being rendered surplus consequent to the modernisation of Telegraph Network with the introduction of new technology it is not possible to give any time schedule.

[*English*]

TV Studio at Sambalpur, Orissa

1679. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up TV Studio at Sambalpur in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the proposal and the time by which the studio will be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Seventh Plan allocation of Doordarshan does not include any provision for establishment of TV studio centre at Sambalpur in Orissa. However, the Seventh Plan has a scheme for establishment of a fulfledged TV studio centre at Bhubaneswar in Orissa, with facilities for production of programmes in colour. The studio centre is already under construction.

Proposal to restrict Liberalisation Policy

1680. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to restrict the liberalisation policy and also restrict the import for superfluous industry which are not in care-sector and in essential sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to restrict the liberalisation policy in the industrial field. AS regards imports, they are regulated by the Import-Export policy from time to time. Govt. always keeps a check on non-essential and low-priority imports.

Establishment of Mini-Hydro-Electric Power Projects

1681. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mini hydro-electric power projects proposed to be established during 1988-89;

(b) the locations identified for this purpose;

(c) when was the feasibility report prepared in this regard; and

(d) the amount estimated for implementing each of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (d). The following mini/micro schemes are scheduled to be commissioned during 1988-89.

	Name of the Scheme	*Installed Capacity (MW)*	*Capacity to be commissioned in 1988-89(NW)*	*Location/ State*	*Total latest estimated cost (Rs.in lakhs)*
	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Thuhi	2x0.4	0.8	Punjab	186.24
2.	Rohiti	2x0.4	0.8	Punjab	179.68
3.	Rongnichu	5x0.5	1.0	Sikkim	602.00
4.	Rimbi	2x0.5	1.0	Sikkim	194.00
5.	Sessa	3x0.5	1.5	Arunahcal Pradesh	251.00
6.	Ego Ichi	4x01.	0.4	—do—	114.70
7.	Ampani	3x0.1	0.3	—do—	86.00
8.	Tafragram	2x0.25	0.5	—do—	33.25
9.	Leimakhong	2x0.5	1.0	Manipur	185.21
10.	Gelnel	2x0.2	0.4	Manipur	74.00
11.	Khawiva	3x0.35	1.05	Mizoram	200.19
12.	Tuirivang	3x0.1	0.3	Mizoram	180.00
13.	Dikku	1x0.75 1x0.25	0.75	Nagaland	458.00

Feasibility reports of Projects costing less than Rs 5 crores are not submitted to Central Electricity Authority.

Doordarshan on TV Sets in West and North Delhi

1682. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the complaints of disturbance on T.V. sets experienced by Viewers in West and North Delhi;'

(b) whether any enquiry has been made to ascertain the causes of such unusual disturbances; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Extensive monitoring carried out by the Ministry of Communications revealed that the interference was due to a TV signal on Channel 4, received from a foreign TV transmitter operating on the same Channel, through an anomalous mode of propagation caused by abnormal atmospheric conditions. However, after commission of 2x10 KW TV transmitter at Pitampura, resulting in an improvement in the strength of local TV Signal, this interference has not been observed in certain are as where it was observed earlier. On the other hand, the improvement in the strength of the local TV signal has resulted in reflections from high rise buildings giving rise to 'ghosts; in reception in certain areas. This can be overcome by re-adjusting the receiving antennae at these places.

Utilisation of Gas in Andhra Pradesh

1683. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the new finds of gas resources which have been abandoned and those which have been commercialy exploited in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the steps taken by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission to utilise the gas finds in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) In Andhra Pradesh none of the new gas discoveries are abandoned. Production of gas has commenced from Razole and Narsapur prospects.

(b) Commitments have been made to nine industries and for a power plant of APSEB.

TV Serial " Mahabharat"

1684. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY:
SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI :
DR. B.L. SHAILESH :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the script of Mahabharat serial telecast by Doordarshan has been approved by any Committee of experts;

(b) if not, the authority which has approved the script of the episodes;

(c) the amount paid to the producer for each episode;

(d) the estimated income from advertisements on account of this serial; and

(e) the viewers' rating of "Mahabharat" serial?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) Yes sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Doordarshan does not pay the producers for telecast of any Sponsored Programme. For telecast of each episode of 'Mahabharat' the Producers pay a sponsorship fee of Rs. 2.00 lakhs per episode to Doordarshan and in turn they get free commercial time of 180 seconds.

(d) The average gross revenue from advertisements in connection with telecast of this serial comes to Rs 45 lakhs per episode in addition to the sponsorship fee of Rs. 2 lakhs.

(e) The viewers 'rating of 'Mahabharat" serial as per panel survey of October, 1988 in different cities is given below:-

Sl.No.	*Kendra*	*Viewership (%)*
1.	Delhi	78
2.	Jaipur	88
3.	Bombay	72
4.	Nagpur	74
5.	Ahmedabad	90
6.	Hyderabad	62
7.	Madras	69
8.	Bangalore	68
9.	Calcutta	71
	All India average	75

Telecast of Films on TV

1685. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of films telecast on Doordarshan in 1987 and 1988, category-wise.

(b) the amount paid to the producers of the films; and

(c) whether any assessment has been made about the reaction of the viewing public of these pictures?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT): (a) and (b). The information is given in the Statement below:-

(b) No, Sir.

STATEMENT

DETAILS OF FILMS TALECAST ON NATIONAL NETWORK DURING THE YEARS 1987 AND 1988 (UPTO 6.11.88) (CALENDAR)

	Category	YEAR : 1987		YEAR : 1988	
		No. of films telecast	*Amount (in Rupees)*	*No. of films telecast*	*Amount Sanctioned (in Rupees)*
(i)	Sunday Evening (Hindi)	53	2,08,25,000	47	1,67,37,500
(ii)	Sunday After noon (Regional)	35	1,60,50,000	40	1,77,25,000
(iii)	Old Classic (9.50 p.m. Slot) On 3rd Sat. of month.	9	27,75,000	8	22,00,000
(iv)	English/Foreign Films on 1st Sat. of month.	5	10,75,000	4	9,00,000
(v)	Late Night Films	29	73,50,000	14	37,18,750
	TOTAL :	131	4,80,75,000	113*	4,12,81,250

* The figure does not include one Hindi feature film and three foreign feature films telecast on Saturday night free of cost.

TV Programme Production Centre at Hyderabad and Rayalaseema

1686. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Programme Production Centre of Hyderabad T.V. Kendra will be commissioned shortly;

(b) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up a Doordarshan Kendra in Rayalaseema also; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). Establishment of the new TV Studio Centre at Hyderabad has been completed and the installation is under test, at present. The Studio Centre would be commissioned into regular service very soon.

(c) Low Power (100 W) TV transmission centres are already functioning at Kurnool, Adoni, Cuddapah, Produttur, Anantapur and Tirupati in the Rayalaseema area of Andhra Pradesh. Besides, high power (10 KW) TV transmission centres are under implementation at Anantapur and Tirupati in replacement of the existing low power transmission centres.

Setting up of Cellular Mobile Radio Telephone Network by Private Sector

1687. D.R. G.S.RAJHANS:
SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of India Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has urged the Government to allow private sector to set up Cellular Mobile Radio Telephone new network and also manufacture of equipment etc;

(b) if so, whether Government have since examined the proposal of the Federation of India Chambers of Commerce and Industry in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[*Translation*]

Electricity Bills in Delhi

1688. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that incorrect electricity bills in Delhi are still being sent and the consumers are asked to first deposit the amount of the bills and then apply for their rectification;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take effective steps to stop this practice of DESU ; and

(c) the time by which it would be done and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (c). All efforts are made by Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU) to send

correct bills according to the meter readings. The consumers are required to get the errors, if any, in their bills rectified by visiting the concerned District Office and then make payment accordingly. The work of electricity billing is being further streamlined through progressive computerisation which is expected to further reduce the instances of wrong billing.

Profits Earned by BPCL

1689. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., has earned profit during the year 1987-88;

(b) if so, the extent of which it has earned more profit this year as compared to the profit of last year;

(c) whether any steps are proposed to be taken to further increase the profit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The profit after tax for the year 1987-88 was Rs 76.04 crores, which was 26% more than the corresponding figure for the year 1986-87;

(c) and (d). Improvements in profits are sought to be achieved through maximisation of crude throughput, increase in sales and improved operations.

Establishment of Industries in Joint Sector

1690. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and U.S.S.R. propose to establish industries in the joint sector;

(b) if so, the number of such industries in the country at present and the number likely to be established in near future;

(c) whether both the countries contemplate to establish industries in other countries also; and

(d) if so, the names of such countries and the industries to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Government of India and the USSR are encouraging setting up of joint ventures between the two countries including the private sector in India. It is understood that some Indian parties in the private sector are exploring the possibilities of setting up joint ventures in India or in USSR. During the period from 1983 till third quarter of 1988 Government has accorded approval to 26 proposals of foreign collaboration with USSR. Government have also accorded approval for setting up two joint venture restaurants by the Indian companies in the USSR.

(c) and (d). Setting up of projects in third countries as result of cooperation between USSR and Indian companies is possible though there are no such specific proposals under consideration in the Ministry of Industry at present.

[*English*]

Crude Oil Prices

1691. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:
SHRI MANIK REDDY:
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state.

(a) whether there is a heavy slump in the crude oil prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the prices of petroleum products in view of this ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) and (b). The international oil prices have been very volatile and had declined sharply in September - October of this year before rising again gradually. The spot prices of various grades of crude oil in the international market ranged between $ 10.5 - 11.0/ barrel in the week noted 4.11.1988.

(c) and (d). Under the administered pricing policy for petroleum products, prices are generally not revised with the fluctuations in the prices of crude and petroleum products in the international market.

Setting up of a Electronic Telephone Exchange at Bhongir in Nalgonda District (Andhra Pradesh)

1692. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:
SHRI MANIK REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have sanctioned an electronic telephone exchange at Bhongir in Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the work on this project has since commenced;

(c) the funds allocated, for this project; and

(d) the time which the exchange will be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Project will cost abut Rs 95 Lakhs.

(d) The exchange is planned to be commissioned by March, 1990 subject to availability of equipment.

Unauthorised use of Newsprint by Indian Express Group of Newspapers

1693. SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether unauthorised use of scare newsprint by M/s. Indian Express Group of Newspapers has come to the notice of Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, the outcome of the investigations made and the steps taken to prevent such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). Instances of transfer of newsprint by One publication of M/s. Indian Express Group of Newspapers to another have come to the notice of the Government. Appropriate action as per rules is being examined.

Upgradation of Goa Postal Division

1694. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade the Goa Postal Division into a region;

(b) if so, when would this upgradation be done;

(c) what would be the staff and administrative pattern of the proposed region; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b). A proposal to upgrade the post of Senior Superintendent of post offices, Goa into that of Director of Postal services Goa is under examination.

(c) and (d). The staff of the existing Postal Division would provide administrative supper to the Director of Postal Services, Goa, if and when the post of Senior Superintendent of Post Offices is upgraded.

Joint Ventures with Soviet Union

1695. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to encourage private companies in entering into joint ventures with the Soviet industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the Soviet Union would be giving any loan to assist the private sector in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Government of India and the USSR are encouraging setting up of Joint ventures between the two countries including the private sector in India. It is understood that some Indian parties in the private sector are exploring the possibilities of setting up joint ventures in India or in USSR. During the period from 1983 till third quarter of 1988 Government has accorded approval to 26 proposals of foreign collaboration with USSR. Government have also accorded approval for setting up two joint venture restaurants by the Indian companies in the USSR.

(c) and (d). There is a proposal from the Bank of Foreign Economic Affairs of the USSR (BFEA) for a line of credit to IDBI to be utilised for financing the imports of Soviet capital goods and components by Indian corporate organisations, mainly private companies. The terms of the proposed credit are to be negotiated and finalised between the representatives of IDBI and BFEA.

Measures to Promote Educational Programmes on T.V.

1696. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN:
SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned " Newspapers basic source of information" appearing in the 'Indian Express dated October 15, 1988;

(b) the details of programmes being telecast by the Doordarshan for students, at present;

(c) whether it is a fact that the educational programmes are being viewed by much less number of students than the programmes like feature films and the prime time serials; and

(d) the measures taken to promote educational programmes among students and make them more useful?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Educational TV programmes originated by CIET are telecast in Telugu, Oriya Marathi, Gujarati and Hindi languages for 45 minutes each during the School days by all transmitters in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

The School TV Programmes are Syllabus oriented which are prepared by Doordarshan Kendra at Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Srinagar in consultation with the respective State/Union Territory authorities and are telecast by these Kendras for different durations.

The Higher Education TV Programmes are telecast from 1245 to 1345 hours and again repeated from 1600 to 1700 hours for the University students throughout the country. These are compiled by University Grants Commission.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It has always been the endeavour to improve upon programmes including educational programmes to make them more useful and purposeful. This is a continuous process.

[*Translation*]

Discovery of Helium Gas in Rajasthan

1697. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether precious Helium gas has been found in large quantity in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the quantity thereof;

(c) the details of the scheme formulated by Government to utilise the said gas; and

(d) the time by which the said scheme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (d). Sufficient reserves for extraction f helium from ONGC's gas fields in Rajasthan are yet to be firmly established.

[*English*]

Developmental Schemes for Coir Villages

1698. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) which are the coir villages adopted by Union Government for development;

(b) the amount allotted to these adopted villages;

(c) the amount spent so far on these villages; and

(d) what are the developmental schemes for these coir villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). During 1987-88 the Coir Board has implemented the Model Coir Village Scheme with a financial assistance of around Rs. 19.00 lakhs in seven villages.

(i). Kovalam Karibhagom

(ii) Thrikkadavoor

(iii) Muhamma

(iv) Chempu

(v) Kumbalangy

(vi) Methala

(vii) Olavanna.

Developmental schemes implemented in these villages were;

(i). Houses for SC/ST coir workers

(ii) Electrification of houses of SC/ST workers

(iii) Sanitary latrines

(iv) Smokeless Choolas.

(v) Covered roofs for working area.

(vi) Small implement kits

(vii) Rest rooms

(viii) Colour television sets

(ix) Drinking water schemes.

(x) Toys and utensils for one Anganwadi.

Reconstitution of Coir Board

1699. PROF. K.V. THOMAS:
SHRI MATILAL HANSDA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coir Board was recently reconstituted;

(b) if so, the names of the members of the Board;

(c) the criteria adopted for the reconstitution of the Board;

(d) whether coir trade unions have been given adequate representation in the Board; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of the members of the Board are given in the statement below.

(c) to (e). The Coir Board was reconstituted in accordance with the provisions of the Coir Industry Act, 1953 and Coir Industry Rules, 1954.

STATEMENT

Member of the Coir Board

(a) Growers of coconuts and producers of husks and coir yarn.

1. Shri V.R. Prasad

2. Shri Kumud Bhattacharjee (since resigned)

3. Shri V.K.Laxmanan

(b) persons engaged in the production of husks, coir and coir yarn and in the manufacture of coir products.

4. Shri Thachadi Prabhakaran

5. Shri Kaviad Divakara Panicker

6. Smt. Kuntala Kumari Acharya

(c) Manufactures of coir products.

7. Shri Jagan Philipose

8. Shri Peter Alphonse

9. Shri B. Byrappaji

(d) Dealers in Coir, Coir yarn and coir products including both exporters and internal traders.

10. Shri Ravi Karunakaran

11. Shri Radhakrishna Adiga

12. Smt. G. Kamala Devi

(e) Members of Parliament

13. Shri N. Dennis (Lok Sabha)

14. Shri I Rama Rai (Lok Sabha)

15. Shri John. F. Fernandes (Rajya Sabha)

(f) Governments of principal coconut growing States.

16. Representative of the Government of Kerala

17. Director of Industries & Commerce, Government of Tamil Nadu

18. Representative of the Government of Karnataka

19. Commissioner of Industries, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

20. Representative of the Government of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(g) Such other persons or class of persons who is the opinion of the Central Government ought to be represented on the Board.

21. Representative of the Integrated Finance Wing of the Department of Industrial Development, Ministry of Industry

22. Representative of the Department of Industrial Development, Ministry of Industry.

23. Chairman, Coconut Development Board.

Expansion and Development Schemes of H.M.T Ltd

1700. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the expansion and development schemes of various units of H.M.T. Ltd.;

(b) the names of units which are running in loss;

(c) the steps taken to reduce the loss;

(d) whether the long term wage settlement and promotion policy of HMT Workers has been finalised;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) when it will be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Development & improvement is a continuous activity in HMT. HMT has planned the expansion of capacity for the manufacture of Tractors at Pinjore, quartz Analog watches at Tumkur and ladies watches at Bangalore.

(b) During the year 1987-88 the following Units of HMT have incurred losses:

1. HMT V, Hyderabad
2. Lamp Unit, Hyderabad.
3. HMT VI, Ajmer.
4. Watch Factory III, Srinagar.
5. Watch Factory V, Ranibagh.

(c) The strategies for improving the performance are improvement in working capital management and productivity, strengthening of marketing and production interface and cost reduction. It is also planned to implement a scheme of voluntary retirement in selected units.

(d) to (f). The long term settlement with effect from 1.1.1987 for HMT employees is under discussions and the agreement with the Unions will be signed as soon as the discussions are finalised.

Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. Unit at Cochin

1701. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. Unit at Cochin is ready for commissioning;

(b) if so, when it will be commissioned; and

(c) what is the cost of this project?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) and (b). The plant has already been commissioned and commercial production has also started in March, 1988.

(c) The total cost of the project is expected to be about Rs. 90. crores.

Private Courier Service

1702. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has recently been a spurt in the number of private courier service operators in the country;

(b) whether these are required to be licensed/approved by Government;

(c) what check is exercised to ensure that these couriers do not clandestinely carry matter prejudicial to the security and interests of the country;

(d) Whether during interception of some packets going through these private-courier services recently some objectionable activities being indulged in by some unscrupulous persons have a come to notice; and

(e) if so, the action Government propose to take check these anti-national elements and regulate and control the functioning of such couriers services, which also entail financial loss in revenue to the Postal Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) This Ministry has no information regarding the number of private courier service operating in the country and the extent of their operations.

(b) The provisions of Indian Post Office Act, 1989, which is administered by the Department of Posts, do not require either licensing or approval for any private courier service operator. No such licences or approvals were issued in the past also.

(c) So far as the Department of Posts is concerned, there is no scope for exercising any such check. Since the courier services usually operate through the existing public transport like air-lines, Railways, road-ways etc., the concerned Ministries have been requested for relevant information if any in the matter.

(d) The Department of Posts has no information in this regard. The Ministries of Railways, Surface Transport, Home Affairs and the Department of Civil Aviation have been requested to furnish relevant information, if any in this regard.

(e) The concerned Ministries have been requested for relevant information, if any. As regards revenue, the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 vests the Central Government with the exclusive privilege of conveying and performing all incidental services in respect of letters. This monopoly is, however, not applicable to articles like packets, which are not letters. However, the Department of Posts, on its own, these already provided a fast reliable and assured service for transmission of time-sensitive materials in the country and at specified placed abroad. This service known as "Speed Post', has already found wide acceptance with the people and three volume of mails sent through this service has shown a steady increase.

Land Acquisition for Refinery in Karnal

1703. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land acquired by Government for setting up an oil refinery in the area of village Bohli (Karnal) in Haryana and when was it acquired;

(b) how much compensation was assessed and paid to the landowners; and

(c) whether the possession of the land had been taken over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (c). An are of 2079.3 acres of land has been acquired by the State Govt. of Haryana in March, 1987 for the Karnal Refinery Project and major portion of the land has already been taken over. A sum of Rs. 2.50 crores has been deposited with the Land Acquisition Collector towards payment of compensation to the private land owners against an assessment of about Rs. 2.63 crores.

Manufacture of Equipments for Power Units

1704. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the power equipments are being imported;

(b) if so, the money spent for this purpose;

(c) whether Government are also considering to manufacture all the equipments for establishing power plants in the country in future; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

LPG Extraction Plant in Madhya Pradesh

1705. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have given approval for setting up of an LPG extraction plant in Madhya Pradesh along the HBJ Pipeline;

(b) if so, the total expenditure involved; and

(c) when is the project likely to be implemented and to what extent this plant will meet the cooking gas demand of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total project is expected to cost Rs. 297 crores.

(c) The first phase of the project is expected to be completed by August 1991. With the increased availability of LPG from this plant it is expected that additional new connections will be released.

Aromatics Project of Cochin Refineries

1706. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the aromatics project of Cochin Refineries made so far;

(b) whether the undertaking has applied for Central clearance for another expansion programme;

(c) whether Government have given clearance for the expansion of Cochin Refineries; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) Overall progress of the project as on end-October, 1988 is 97.3%.

(b) No formal proposal has been received.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Pipelines from Kandla to Bhatinda

1707. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has proposed to lay a pipeline from Kandla in Gujarat to Bhatinda in Punjab with World Bank aid;

(b) if so, the total cost of the project; and

(c) to what extent World Bank has agreed to provide aid in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed pipeline is estimated to cost Rs. 686.54 crores.

(c) The World Bank has shown interest in financing the project to an extent of US $ 130 million.

Super Thermal Power Project at Talcher

1708. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:
SHRI G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pit head Super Thermal Power Project at Talcher in Orissa is likely to be set up in public sector;

(b) is so, the main features of this project;

(c) the number and location of other such projects established in the country; and

(d) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide aid to this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project is to be set up by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in the Dhenkanal district of Orissa with a capacity of 1000 MW (2 x 500 MW) in the first stage. The latest estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1480.85 crores, including Rs. 76.81 crores for the associated transmission system.

(c) The other pit head Super Thermal Power Stations at which units are in operation are located at Singrauli (Uttar Pradesh), Korba (Madhya Pradesh), Ramagundam (Andhra Pradesh), Farakka (West Bengal), Vindhyachal (Madhya Pradesh), Rihand (Uttar Pradesh), Anpara (Uttar Pradesh), Chandrapur (Maharashtra) and Neyveli (Tamil Nadu).

(d) Financial assistance to the extent of US $ 375 million will be extended by the World Bank for the Talcher project.

Public Undertakings in Kerala

1709. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the public undertakings sanctioned by Union Government in Kerala during the last five years;

(b) the investment made by Union Government on these projects;

(c) whether there is any proposal for starting any new public undertaking project in Kerala during the years 1988-89 and 1989-90; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). Five Public Sector Enterprises have registered offices in Kerala. But none of these was set up during the last five years.

(c) and (d). Details of new schemes in the State of Kerala in the Industrial & Minerals Sectors during the Seventh Five Year Plan are as under:-

S. No.	*New Scheme*	*Seventh Five Year Plan Outlay (Rs. crores)*
1	2	3
1.	Fertilizers and Chemicals (Travancore) Ltd., Udyogmandal and Cochin.	2.10

1	2	3
2.	Cochin Shipyard Ltd., Cochin Rectification of Imbalances, additional quay, additional *drydock, off-shore activity*, adoption of new design and modifications, augmentation of training facilities.	40.00
3.	HMT Ltd., Kalamassery	5.00
	Year-wise break-up is not available	

Use of Natural Gas Instead of Petrol

1710. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a saving in foreign exchange due to the increased use of natural gas as an alternative source of energy to oil;

(b) if so, what will be the savings in 1989-90; and

(c) the expected production of LPG per annum planned by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) and (b). Natural gas can be used as a substitute for certain liquid petroleum products. The increased use of natural gas would help in containing the consumption of some petroleum products as also the net outgo of foreign exchange for this purpose.

(c) ONGC is expected to produce 595,000 tonnes of LPG during 1988-89.

[*Translation*]

Generation of Power by Industrial Units

1711. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of industrial units in the country generate power for themselves;

(b) if so, whether these industrial units have asked for financial assistance as grant for the energy they are generating;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Permission for captive power plants is accorded where the requirement of power is large and continuous and reliable power supply is necessary. The State Electricity Boards are empowered to accord such permission if the capacity is upto 25 MW; consultation with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is necessary is cases where the

proposed capacity is more than 25 MW. The existing capacity of captive power plants in the country is about 4000 MW.

(b) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Amendment in Indian Companies Act, 1956

1712. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to further amend the Companies Act, 1956;

(b) whether Government have received any suggestions in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which Government propose to bring the proposal before parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d). The Government keeps on receiving suggestions to further amend Companies Act, 1956 from time to time. However, no decision has been taken to amend the Act, for the present.

[*English*]

Nagpur TV Kendra

1713. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nagpur TV Kendra has been made as a relay centre;

(b) whether it is a fact that Nagpur TV Kendra was a transmission centre earlier;

(c) if so, the reasons for degrading the Nagpur TV Kendra from transmission centre to relay centre;

(d) whether there is persistent demand to restore the status of Nagpur TV Kendra as a transmission centre; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and what other modern facilities are proposed to be provided at the Nagpur TV Kendra?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) to (e). Doordarshan Kendra at Nagpur was initially set up under INSAT Scheme to serve the rural population, of four districts, namely, inter alia, Nagpur, Bhandara, Chandrapur and Garchiroli. However, soon after its establishment the Area Specific Programmes produced by the Kendra were relayed by all the high power TV transmitters in the State except those at Bombay and Pune for a duration of 35 mts. via satellite. This arrangement continued upto August 9, 1986 when regional TV service was introduced in Maharashtra and the distribution of Area Specific Programmes produced in the Kendra was again confined to the four districts of Nagpur, Bhandara, Chandrapur and Garhchiroli.

With a view to optimising the utilisation of available space segment facility in INSAT-IB, it was decided to introduce regional TV service in Tamil Nadu for a limited duration via satellite linkage and provide for the distribution of programmes produced at DDK, Nagpur throughout the State as a part of the State's regional TV service. While the satellite based regional TV service for a limited duration has since been introduced in Tamil

Nadu, arrangements have been made to distribute shortly on a regular basis the programmes produced at DDK, Nagpur throughout the State. In the meantime, the programmes produced at DDK, Nagpur are being suitably telecast twice a week as a part of the regional service in the State.

Crude Oil Production in Eighth Plan

1714. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has a proposal to step up crude oil production by 15 million tonnes during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) if so, how much investment will be made to step up crude oil production;

(c) whether the services of any foreign experts will also be taken in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (d). The crude oil production plan of ONGC for the 8th Five Year Plan as also the extent of investment needed and the requirement of services of foreign experts, if any, will be finalised alongwith the finalisation of the said five year plan as a whole.

Scheme for Incentive to State Electricity Boards

1715. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme for incentive payments to the State Electricity Boards and Electricity Departments for the reduction of transmission and distribution losses; and

(b) the details of cash awards given so far under this scheme and how far the transmission and distribution losses have been reduced by the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b). Under the scheme, awards would be given to the State Electricty Boards/Electricity Departments and their Distribution Divisions who achieve a prescribed reduction in the transmission and distribution losses. Individuals and Institutions who develop any scientific device or make practical suggestions for reducing transmission and distribution losses will also be eligible for awards. The awards under the scheme will be given from the current financial year.

Renovation and Modernisation of Thermal Stations and Generating Units

1716. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise break-up of 34 thermal power stations and 162 generating units taken up for renovation and modernisation; and

(b) the number of thermal power stations and generating units which have completed the renovation and modernisation since the introduction of the scheme in 1984?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) The state-wise break-up of 34 Thermal

Stations and 162 generating units taken up for renovation and modernisation is given in the statement below.

(b) The renovation and modernisation programme is under various stages of implementation and partial works have been completed at the power stations covered under this programme. The thermal units on which the Renovation and Modernisation works have been completed are indicated below:-

S. No.	*Name of State/Organisation/ Thermal Power Station*	*Unit*	
		No.	*Capacity (MW)*
1.	Delhi/DESU/I.P. TPS.	1	35
2.	Punjab/PSEB/Bhatinda TPS.	1	110
3.	—do—	3	110
4.	—do—	4	110
5.	A.P./APSEB/Kothagudem TPS	7	110
6.	—do—	8	110
7.	DVC/Chandrapura TPS	1	140
8.	—do—	2	140

STATEMENT

Statewise Break up of Thermal Stations/Units Covered under Centrally Sponsored R&M Programme

Sl. No.	*Name of the States/ Organisations/Thermal Power Stations.*	*No. & Rating of Units (MW) covered under Renovation*	*Capacity (MW)*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*
1.	NTPC		
	Badarpur	3 x 100	
		2 x 210	720
2.	DELHI /DESU		
	Indraprastha	1x35	
		3x62.5	282.50
		1x60	

1	*2*	*3*	*4*
3.	HARYANA/HSEB Faridabad	3x60 1x15	195
4.	Panipat	2x110	220
5.	PUNJAB/PSEB Bhatinda	4x110	440
6.	U.P./UPSEB Pamki	2x32 2x110	284
7.	Obra	5x50 3x100 5x200	1550
8.	Harduaganj	3x30 2x50 4x60 1x110	540
9.	MP/MPEB Korba	1x10 3x30 4x50 2x120	540
10.	Amarkantak	2x30 2x120	300
11.	Satpura	5x62.5 1x200 1x210	722.5
12.	GUJARAT/GEB Gandhinagar	2x120	240
13.	Dhuvaran	4x63.5 2x140	534
14.	Ukai	2x120	240

1	*2*	*3*	*4*
15.	MAHARASHTRA/MSEB Koradi	4x120	480
16.	Nasik	2x140	280
17.	Bhusawal	1x62.5	62.5
18.	Paras	1x30 1x62.5	92.5
19.	AP/APSEB Kothagudem	4x60 4x110	680
20.	Ramagundem-B	1x62.5	62.5
21.	TN/TNEB Ennore	2x60 3x110	450
22.	Tuticorin	3x210	630
23.	NLC Neyveli	6x50 3x100	600
24.	ORISSA/OSEB Talcher	4x62.5	250
25.	DVC Chandrapura	3x140 3x120	780
26.	Bokaro	3x50 1x155	205
27.	Durgapur	2x55* 1x140	205
28.	BIHAR/BSEB Patratu	4x50 2x100 2x110	620

1	2	3	4
29.	Barauni	2x50 2x15	130
30.	Karbigahia	2x1.5 1x3 1x7.5	13.5
31.	WEST BENGAL/WBSEB Santaldih	4x120	480
32.	Bandel	4x80	320
33.	WEST BENGAL/DPL Durgapur	2x30 1x170 2x75	280
34.	ASSAM/ASEB Namraup	3x23 1x12.5 1x30	111.5
	Total:	162 + 2*	13475.5 + 110*

*Damaged in fire subsequently.

Guidelines for Renovation and Modernisation of Thermal Power Stations

1717. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the detailed guidelines in regard to the modalities for implementation of the programme for renovation and modernisation of thermal power stations;

(b) the States which have not yet constituted the special machinery designed to ensure execution of the scheme; and

(c) the deficiencies found by Government in the implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) The detailed guidelines in regard to the modalities for implementation of the programme for renovation and modernisation of thermal power stations are given in the statement below.

(b) All State Electricity Boards/Public utilities who have thermal power stations identified for the implementation of the programme have constituted the special machinery required to ensure the execution of the scheme.

(c) The deficiencies which have been

found in implementation of the scheme are:-

(i) Delay in finalisation and placement of orders by State Electricity Boards/Public Sector utilities.

(ii) Delays in supply of material/ equipments by suppliers.

(iii) Slow progress in implementation of State Plan activities due to inadequate flow of funds from the respective State Governments to State Electricity Boards.

(iv) Postponement of shut down programme in the year 1987-88 due to drought conditions.

STATEMENT

Guidelines Regarding Modalities for Implementation of R&M Programme

The following are the main guidelines for implementation of R&M Programme:

(1) In view of the limited funds available under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Central Assistance will be confined to only core and most essential activities/Works. The remaining renovation works/activities will have to be financed by SEBs/Public Sector Utilities under their State Plan resources. However, SEB/s Public Sector Utilities shall ensure to implement the renovation scheme in totality to derive expected benefits and improvement in generation and PLF etc.

(2) CEA & SEBs/Public Sector Utilities will work out jointly the yearly funds requirements under Central Assistance for implementation of renovation activities/ works identified under Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Simultaneously, the SEB/s/Public Sector Utilities shall be required to provide adequate funds every year under their State Plan Resources for execution of activities/Works covered there under.

(3) a) Upto 31st March, 1988, the payments in respect of renovation activities/works pertaining to BHEL/ILK were to be released directly by the CEA to them on the basis of bills/invoices duly verified by the SEBs/Public Sector Utilities. Funds in respect of other renovation activities/ work covered under Central Assistance were to be released directly to the SEBs/ Public Sector Utilities in suitable instalments.

b) With effect from April 1, 1988, funds for activities/works identified under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being provided by Power Finance Corporation (PFC) (A Government of India Undertaking). Payments are made by the Corporation in respect of materials supplied/ work done, on the advice of State Electricity Boards/Public Sector Utilities. In the case of public sector suppliers/contractors payments are made direct to them on the advice of the State Electricity Boards/Public Sector Utilities. In the case of other suppliers/contractors payments are made by the Corporation through Bank.

(4) Release of various instalments of Central Assistance funds from time to time will be subject to the furnishing of accounts of expenditure/utilisation of funds released earlier for the implementation of renovation activities/works as identified under the Central Assistance scheme. Funds released under the Central Assistance scheme shall necessarily be utilised only for the renovation activities/works approved by CEA under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Any violation in this regard is liable to lead to suspension of release of further Central assistance funds under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

(5) For implementation of renovation and modernisation programme efficiently and effectively in a time-bound schedule, State Electricity Boards/Utilities shall set up separate Plant Betterment Cells adequately staffed as suggested by CEA exclusively for this purpose for proper planning, co-ordination, follow-up, etc. of implementation of Renovation programme. State Electricity Boards/Public Sector Utilities shall also adequately further augment/strengthen their maintenance organisation to ensure implementation of renovation and modernisation works in a time bound programme.

(6) State Electricity Boards/Public Sector Utilities shall upgrade and modernise their personnel practices, introduce adequate training arrangements and to the extent possible separate generation and distribution cadres.

(7) State Electricity Boards/Public Sector Utilities shall improve their Operation & Maintenance practices, spare parts management and inventory control and introduce other modern Management techniques for efficient operation and maintenance of their power stations.

(8) State Electricity Boards/Public Sector Utilities shall guarantee the achievement of benefits and improvement in generation and PLF etc. as stipulated at the time of sanctioning of the renovation schemes and already communicated to them by the CEA.

(9) Task Forces comprising a Senior Engineer of the SEB, a Senior Officer of the Board's Finance Branch, Chief Engineer (OM) of the Power Station concerned and the coordination Director from the CEA would be set up both at power station & head quarters of the SEB. These Task Forces should be vested with adequate power for expeditious finalisation of supply and work orders. This arrangement would also cut short procedural delays generally involved in processing offers & tenders in a routine manner.

Micro, Mini and Small Hydro-Electric Power Stations

1718. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise break-up of 105 micro, mini and small hydro-electric stations in the country;

(b) the State-wise break-up of 87 such schemes under construction; and

(c) the State-wise break-up of 257 small hydro-electric schemes under investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c). State wise break up of micro, mini and small hydroelectric power stations, existing, under construction and under formulation/investigation as on 31.10.1988 is given in Statements I, II and III below.

STATEMENT I

Existing Micro/Mini/Small HE Stations (As on 31.10.1988)

S. No.	*Name of the State/ UT's*	*No. of Stations*	*Aggregate capacity*
1	2	3	4
NORTHERN REGION			
1.	Himachal Pradesh	12	14820
2.	Jammu and Kashmir	8	30305
3.	Uttar Pradesh	29	35000
4.	Punjab	2	2500
5.	Rajasthan	2	9000
	Sub total	53	91625
WESTERN REGION			
1.	Maharashtra	4	15375
2.	Gujarat	1	5000
	Sub total	5	20375
SOUTHERN REGION			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	12010
EASTERN REGION			
1.	DVC	1	4000
2.	Sikkim	2	3096

1	2	3	4
3.	West Bengal	7	19860
	Sub total	10	26956
NORTH EASTERN REGION			
1.	Assam	1	2000
2.	Manipur	4	2800
3.	Meghalaya	2	12710
4.	Nagaland	52	1750
5.	Tripura	3	16010
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	24	14060
7.	Mizoram	2	1100
8.	Neepco	1	6
	Sub total:	39	50436
	TOTAL ALL INDIA	111	201402

STATEMENT II

Existing Micro/Mini/small he Stations under construction

As on 31.10.1988

S.No.	*Name of the State/UT's*	*No. of Station*	*Aggr-egate Capacity (KW)*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*
	NORTHERN REGION.		
1.	Himachal	3	21000*
2.	Punjab & Kashmir	3	4600
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	6	9150

1	2	3	4
4.	Uttar Pradesh	3	1650
5.	Rajasthan	9	15350
	Sub total :	24	51750
	WESTERN REGION		
1.	Gujarat	1	2000
2	Madhya Pradesh	5	15805
3.	Maharashtra	4	11200
	Sub total :	10	29005
	SOUTHERN REGION		
1.	Karnataka	5	19750
2.	Kerala	4	10000
3.	Tamil Nadu	3	16000
	Sub-total	12	45750
EASTERN REGION			
1.	Bihar	5	33900
2.	West Bengal	1	1200
3.	Sikkim	5	17500
	Sub Total	11	52600
	NORTH EASTERN REGION		
1.	Assam	6	23950
2.	Manipur	4	3900
3.	Nagaland	1	750
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	12	9000

1	2	3	4
5.	Mizoram	2	1300
	Sub total:	25	38900
	TOTAL ALL INDIA	82	218005

Note : These include schemes cleared by CEA and State Govt.
* Revised project report for the Baner (2x3000 KW) and Thirot (3x1500 KW) are under examination in CEA.

STATEMENT III

Small H.E. Project Under Investigation/Project Formulation

As on 31.10.88

S.No.	*State/UT's*	*No. of schemes*	*Aggregate Capacity (Mw)*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*
	NORTHERN REGION		
1.	Jammu & Kashmir	18	44075
2.	Punjab	35	42000
3.	Uttar Pradesh	49	21850
4.	Rajasthan	6	15125
	Sub-total	108	123050
	WESTERN REGION		
1.	Madhya Pradesh	24	42700
2.	Maharashtra	15	54300
3.	Gujarat	3	1400
4.	Goa	2	3200
	Sub-total	44	101600

1	2	3	4
	SOUTHERN REGION		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17	32350
2.	Karnataka	12	30860
3.	Tamil Nadu	16	87500
4.	Kerala	1	8000
	Sub-Total	46	158710
	EASTERN REGION		
1.	Bihar	23	64530
2.	Orissa	10	30650
3.	West Bengal	9	12825
4.	Sikkim	3	3400
5.	A & N	1	5250
	Sub-total	46	116655
	NORTH EASTERN REGION		
1.	Assam	4	21000
2.	Manipur	15	15400
3.	Nagaland	3	4115
4.	Tripura	2	200
5.	Meghalaya	2	3000
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	26	31850
7.	Mizoram	4	2090
	Sub-total	56	77655
	TOTAL ALL INDIA	300	577670

Availability of Natural Gas

1719. SHRI S. G. GHOLAP : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the total availability of the gas in the country and the expected stocks upto 1990; and

(b) the quantity of gas available in Bombay offshore, Tripura, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Andamans and Krishna Godavari basin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) As on 1.1.1988 the balance recoverable reserves of gas in the country as a whole is estimated to be 580 billion cubic metres. The quantum of balance recoverable reserve of gas in 1990 will depend on the quantum of new established reserves and quantum of gas produced during the next two years.

(b) The information is given below:-

Area	Balance recoverable reserves as on 1.1.88 (in billion cubic mtrs.)
Bombay Offshore	409.86
Tripura	4.24
Rajasthan	0.78
Jammu & Kashmir	Nil
Himachal Pradesh	Nil
Andamans	0.08
Krishna Godavari Basin	3.1

Street Lighting in Delhi

1720. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the reply given on 2 August, ;1988 to Unstarred Question No. 913 regarding street lighting in Delhi and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected and if so, when the same will be laid on the Table of the House;

(b) whether the maintenance of road street lighting in Delhi is still very poor;

(c) whether any enquiry is proposed tc be made into the quality of material used for street lighting;

(d) the measures being taken/proposed to ensure proper lighting in all areas of Delhi; and

(e) when the road lights of Africa Avenue between Ring Road and J.N.U will be improved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

T.V. Programmes for Teachers and Parents

1721. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special programmes have been introduced on T.V. for the benefit of teachers and parents in the field of education;

(b) if so, the reaction of teachers and parents on such programmes;

(c) whether leading specialists are invited to participate in such programmes; and

(d) what other steps are being taken for telecasting programmes to benefit teachers and parents?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) to (d). Doordarshan are telecasting one programme produced by Central Institute for Educational Technology (CIET) every Saturday for the benefit of teachers. Since 1986, Doordarshan are telecasting, during summer vacations, programmes of mass orientation, for school teachers, produced by CIET. These enriched type programmes which are prepared in close association of subject experts/specialists are also useful for parents. Majority of the teachers have found these telecasts useful.

Production of Oil in the Next Ten Years

1722. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated quantity of oil that can be extracted economically and efficiently from Bombay High and other existing oil fields in the next ten years; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken for augmenting oil extraction from Bombay High and other oil fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) and (b). The crude production plan of ONGC and OIL for VIII plan will be finalised alongwith the finalisation of the said Five year Plan as a whole.

The following steps have inter-alia been taken to increase the production of crude oil;

— Intensification of exploration which may eventually lead to enhanced production.

— Intensification of work-over operations.

— Use of enhanced oil recovery techniques

Policy on Offering Shares to Public by Public Sector Units

1723. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Abid Hussain Committee on the development of capital markets has recommended that Government should evolve a fresh policy whereby the shares of some of the major profit making public sector units are offered to the public ;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI VENGAL RAO) : (a) Report of the Abid Hussain Committee has not been received so far.

(b) and (c). Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Linking of Rajkot-Ahmedabad T.V. Centres

1724. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI :

SHRI CHITTUBHAI GAMIT:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for linking Rajkot and Ahmedabad TV Centres through microwave link; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) Request for linking TV transmitters in Gujarat, including that at Rajkot, with Doordarshan Kendra, Ahmedabad have been received from time time from various quarters.

(b) All the TV transmitters in Gujarat, including the one at Rajkot, are envisaged to be linked with Doordarshan Kendra, Ahmedabad through INSAT-II scheduled to be launched in early 1990's.

Use of Energy In Cement Plant

1725. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative figures of rate of consumption of energy used in cement plants of different capacity range and technology (large medium and small scale);

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to achieve five to ten per cent improvement in the rate of consumption of energy in the cement industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) . The energy consumption per tonne of annual cement production in cement plant depends upon the process technology used and capacity utilisation. A detailed study on Energy audit in Cement Industry was made in 1987 by the Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices and National Council for Cement & Building Materials. The study pertains to large cement plants. No formal study has been made in regard to the mini and tiny sectors.

The BICP/NCP report has shown that the weighted average electric power consumption was 114 units per tonne of ordinary portland cement in 1983-84 for the wet process plants and it was 155 units per tonne for the dry process plants. For all the plants taken together, the electric power consumption comes to 130 units per tonne of O.P.C.

The weighted average consumption of thermal energy was 1.657 G/Cal/Tonne of OPC for the wet process plants and it was 0.977/G/Cal per tonne of OPC for the dry process plants. For all the plants taken together, the thermal energy consumption was 1.330 G/Cal per tonne.

(b) (i). Government are having continuous dialogue with the Cement Industry with a view to effecting savings in energy cost. New capacities recently created have adopted the dry process technology which is energy efficient. In order to encourage the cement industry to optimism capacity utilisation, an incentive scheme is being implemented whereby production between 100% and upto 125% of licensed capacity qualifies for a rebate in levy obligation in respect of such extra production.

(ii) Setting up of cement manufacturing capacities through pre-calcination technology is encouraged as a result of which substantial reduction of fuel consumption is expected to be achieved. In the process of modernisation, induction of newer generation of capital goods is also encouraged, which is anticipated to result in a savings in

power consumption to the extent of 5 to 10%.

(iii) Technology leading to conservation in fuel and power by the cement plants are also allowed to be imported if not available indigenously.

Appointment to Oustees by National Thermal Power Corporation

1726. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government about appointments of land oustees by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) ;

(b) whether such land oustees are being given training for absorption in technical jobs:

(c) if so, the number of land oustees so far absorbed by NTPC in their various project, State-wise; and

(d) the number out of them who are still awaiting absorption, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) The policy formulated by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in regard to the appointment of land oustees lays down specific priority groups based on the extent of land acquired. The land oustees are extended preference in employment in the respective projects subject to the availability of vacancies and their suitability. The numbers of land oustees employed in the NTPC, State-wise are as follows:-

STATE	*No.*
(i) Andhra Pradesh	246
(ii) Bihar	48
(iii) Madhya Pradesh	464
(iv) Rajasthan	1
(v) Uttar Pradesh	522
(vi) West Bengal	315

(b) The NTPC does not organise any exclusive technical training for the land oustees for technical jobs.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Rural Electrification in Orissa

1727. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for rural electrification in Orissa during 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89; so far;

(b) the total amount spent during these years of year-wise along with the number of villages so far electrified; and

(c) the target fixed for rural electrification for the Sixth Plan period and whether the target was fully achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) The Planning Commission has approved the following outlay for rural electrification in Orissa during 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 :-

Year	*Outlay (Rs. in lakhs)*
1986-87	2120
1987-88	2232
1988-89	2385

(b) The amount spent and number of villages electrified during these years are as under:-

Year	*Expenditure (Rs in lakhs)*	*No. of villages electrified*
1986-87	1534.89 Provisional	1392
1987-88	2000.00 Provisional	1520
1988-89 (upto Oct.1988)	608.00 (Approx)	356

(c) During the Sixth Plan period a target of electrification of 6835 villages and energisation of 39680 pumpsets was fixed which could not be fully achieved.

STD Facility in Karkala, Karnataka

1728. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Karkala in Daxina Kannada district is very famous pilgrims place for Jains and a big business centre;

(b) whether STD facility has not been provided in Karkala from other parts of the country; and

(c) if so, when STD facility is proposed to be provided in Karkala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) STD facility at Karkala is likely to become feasible by March, 1990.

White Paper on Public Sector

1729. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given on 2 August ,1988 to Unstarred Question No. 939 regarding White Paper on Public Sector and State;

(a) the reasons for delay in placing the White Paper on Public Sector before Parliament ; and

(b) when it is expected to be placed on the Table?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) White Paper is still under finalisation.

(b) It will be placed on the Table of the House as early as possible.

Cost of Power

1730. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the comparative cost of power per unit from Gas based plant, coal based thermal plant, hydel, nuclear power plant, wind power, solar units and micro hydel units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) The estimated cost of power per unit generated from different categories recently appraised in CEA/DAE are as follows:-

Type of generation project	Approximate cost of Power per unit
1. Gas based thermal	36 to 87 paise / Kwh.
2. Coal based thermal	41 to 90 paise / Kwh.
3. Hydel	19 to 80 paise / Kwh.
4. Nuclear	41 to 49 paise / Kwh.
5. Wind Power	Rs. 1.25 to Rs 1.50 /Kwh.
6. Solar	Electricity is not being generated commercially in the country using solar thermal technology as on date.
7. Micro Hydel	70 to 75 paise / Kwh.

Modernisation/Expansion of Public Undertakings in Kerala

1731. PROF. P.J.KURIEN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals have been received from Kerala Government for the modernisation/expansion of public undertakings in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) to (c). From time to time various proposals are received from State Government regarding setting up or expansion of schemes under Public Sector Enterprises. Details regarding investment on modernisation/expansion/renewals proposed in the Central Public Enterprises in Kerala in the 7th Five Year Plan (1985-90) in the Industry and Minerals Sector are as under:-

S.No.	*Modernisation/Expansion/ Renewal Schemes*	*7th Five Year Plan Outlay (Rs in crores)*
1.	Indian Rare Earths Limited (Mining & Wet concentration, helium & uranium recovery, replacement, renewals and modernisation.	13.50
2.	Fertilizers & Chemicals (Travancore) Ltd.	

S.No.	*Modernisation/Expansion/ Renewal Schemes*	*7th Five Year Plan Outlay (Rs in crores)*
	Udyogmandal and Cochin (Replacement, renewal, revamping etc.	78.46
3.	HMT Ltd., Kalamassery Replacement renewals, R&D etc.	5.00
4.	Cochin Shipyard Ltd., Cochin Replacement and renewal	5.00

Low Power Transmitter at Pathanamthitta

1732. PROF. P.J.KURIEN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken to set up a low power transmitter at Pathanamthitta in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per present indications, it is likely to be installed and commissioned into service during 1989-90.

Scheme for New Telephone Lines and Telex Lines

1733. SHRI R.M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have recently framed a scheme to provide a number of new telephone lines connections and some telex lines in the country during the current financial year and some new exchanges have also been considered; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b). The scheme to provide new telephone and telex connection as part of the overall objectives of the Five Year Plan is a continuing process. During 1988-89, about 4 lakh new telephone connections and 2000 new telex connections are proposed to be added in the network.

About 750 new telephone exchanges and 25 new telex exchanges are proposed to be added during the year 1988-89.

Setting up of Quality Testing Laboratory in Delhi

1734. SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new quality testing laboratory has been set up in Delhi for industrial products;

(b) the names of the industries of which the said laboratory will work; and

(c) the number of similar laboratories already working in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). No new quality testing laboratory has been set up under SIDO in New Delhi for industrial products. however, a Regional Testing Centre is already working at Okhla, New Delhi for Northern Region where testing facilities are available for Electrical, Mechanical, Chemical and Metallurgical industries. There is also a laboratory for Electrical appliances working under Delhi Administration at I.S.B.T. New Delhi.

Setting up of a Satellite Communication System for Lakshadweep

1735. SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for setting up Satellite Communication System for augmenting communication facility and also to improve the communication system in Lakshadweep; and

(b) if so, the approximate time by which this system would start functioning there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Satellite earth stations are scheduled to be commissioned during 1988-89.

Hungarian Loan for Augmentation of Energy Resources

1736. SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hungary has offered any loan for augmentation of energy resources in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the extent to which the energy resources would be augmented and the approximate time by which India would have more energy indicating the utilization plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Government of Hungary have offered a mixed line of credit of US $ 200 million comprising US $ 150 million as Government-to-Government Credit and US $ 50 million as Suppliers Credit for import of machinery and equipments for extension of Neyveli-I. Thermal Power Station by 2 x 210 MW and of Neyveli-II. Thermal Power Station 1st Stage by 210 MW. The utilisation schedule would be finalised after detailed negotiations are concluded.

Creation of New Postal Divisions

1737. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of new Postal Divisions proposed to be opened in the country by the end of 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : New Postal Divisions are not opened in the country according to any planned programme. A new Postal Division is created by bifurcating the account jurisdiction of an existing Postal Division if bifurcation of the existing Division and creation of new Postal Division is justified according to fixed set of the norms of the Department. For the present, there is no proposal for creation of a new division during remaining part of 1988-89.

Mining of Coal from Gopalpur Coalfield in Orissa

1738. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will

the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an inordinate delay in the mining of coal from Gopalpur Open Cast Coalfield in Sundargarh district, Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the survey of that open cast coal mine has been completed, if so, when;

(d) the date by which the coal mining work is likely to be started; and

(e) the steps taken for the proper exploitation of coal deposits in that open cast mine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K.JAFFAR SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). Geological Survey of the Gopalpur coalfield area is in progress. So far, about 150 bore holes have been made for detailed exploration. A geological report covering an area of 4 sq. kms. of explored area has been finalised. Further detailed exploration in other block is continuing. Detailed exploration of the entire Gopalpur coalfield will take 6 to 8 years. This will be followed by preparation of geological report for different blocks and preparation of project reports. According to present assessment, coal mining is expected to start in Gopalpur opencast by 1994-95.

Setting up of Automatic Electronic Telephone Exchange in Orissa

1739. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of automatic electronic telephone exchanges set up in Orissa, so far;

(b) the location of those telephone exchanges;

(c) whether it is proposed to set up some more automatic electronic telephone exchanges in Orissa in 1988-89; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Eight automatic electronic telephone exchanges have been setup in Orissa.

(b) The details are given in Statement below.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details are given in Statement II below.

STATEMENT-I

1. Baripada
2. Chatrapur
3. Dhenkanal
4. Keonjhar
5. Koraput
6. Phulbani
7. Sundergarh
8. Jankia

STATEMENT II

Proposed electronic Exchanges in Orissa During 1988-89

C-DOT 128 Port Exchanges

1. Banki
2. Kuoanga
3. Patamundai
4. Tirtol
5. Basta
6 Chandabali
7. Jaleswar
8. Rajnilgiri
9. Attabera
10. Belpahar
11. Deogarh
12. Kuchinda
13. Ganjam
14. Gopalpur
15. Hinjilkat
16. Kabisurya Nagar
17. Balimela
18. Malkangiri
19. Maniguda
20. Umerkote

512 Port ILT — 1. Chandipur.

Mini ILT-64 Port — 10 Nos for 1988-89.

Note: Setting up of above exchanges is subject to availability of equipment.

Petrochemical unit of HPCL at Visakhapatnam

1740. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a petrochemical unit is proposed to be set up as an ancilliary to the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation refinery at Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the cost, capacity etc;

(c) whether it has been examined from the pollution angle and cleared;

(d) whether in view of the heavy concentration of the highly pollutant major industries in that area, Government have taken steps to prevent further industries coming up in areas between Visakhapatnam Port and the said Oil Refinery and the Zinc smelter Plant; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) and (b). Government have approved a proposal of HPCL to set up facilities for separation of 23, 000 tonnes per annum of propylene at Visakhapatnam at in investment of Rs 18.85 crores.

(c) to (e). A High Power Technical Committee constituted by the Andhra

Pradesh Government has recommended that no new industry or expansion of the existing industry should be permitted in the foot-hills of Yerada range at Visakhapatnam. The clearance from Environmental angle for this project is to be considered in the context of this recommendation.

Execution of Hydro-Electric Power Projects in Orissa

1742. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Hydro-Electric Power Projects in Orissa approved by Government for execution in the Seventh Plan period;

(b) the amount sanctioned for the execution of these projects as on 30 June, 1988; and

(c) the progress made in the execution of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c). The following H.E. Projects are under execution in Orissa.

1. Rengali H.E. P. Stage-I 2x50 MW (Since commissioned)
2. Upper Kolab H.E.P. Stage—I 3 x 80 MW (2 units already commissioned)
3. Hirakud Extn. (7th Unit) 1 x 37.5 MW
4. Rengali H.E.P. Extn 3 x 50 MW
5. Upper Kolab H.E. P. Stage-II 1 x 80 MW
6. Uper Indravati H.E.P. 4 x 150 MW
7. Potteru H.E.P. 2 x 3 MW

Progress of work on projects for benefits during the 7th Plan and 8th Plan and approved outlay for 1988-89 is given in the Statement below:.

STATEMENT

ONGOING/APPROVED HE PROJECTS IN ORISSA FOR BENEFITS DURING THE 7TH PLAN.

S.No	Name of the Project	Installed capacity (MW)	Approved outlay (Rs crores)		Benefits in 7th Plan (MW)	Status
			7 th Plan.	1988-89		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Ongoing/approved projects for benefits during 7th Plan.					
1.	Rengali HEP Stage I	2 x 50	7.56	5.84	100.00	Commissioned in 1985-86.
2.	Upper Kolab HEP Stage I	3x00	44.00	11.15	240.00	2 Unit commissioned in 1987-88. The expected date for commissioning of third unit is 1989-90. All the civil works except penstock and lining at pressure shaft B are ready. Erection of penstock is under progress. Penstock and pressure shaft work are critical. Generator barrel concreting completed and handed over for unit erection. Winding of stater are in progress.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Hirakud Extn. (7th Unit)	1x37.5	15.81	5.00	37.5	Civil works of escape channel and retulator are in progress. Power house superstructure is under construction. TE set received at site from M/s. Hitaoni, Japan. Coperating of spiral case is in progress.
4.	Rengali HEP Stage II	3 x 50	39.39	15.00	100.00	Estimated date for commissioning for Unit I is February, 1989. Main civil works have already beerl completed under Stage.I. concreting on generators barrel has beeri completed. Sfator has been palced in the pit and rectification of stater winding is in progress. Assembly of roter is in progress in service bay.
B.	*ONGOING/APPROVED AND CEA CLF*		*J HEP FOR BENEFITS DURING 8TH PLAN*			
1.	Rengali HEP Stage. I.	3x 5[illegible]	39.39	15.00	50.8	All the main civil works have already been completed under Stage I. Order for the generating unit has been placed on BHEL.
2.	Upper Kolab HEP Stage II	1x80	18.62	7.00	80	All the civil works except penstock

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						and lining of pressure shaft B are ready. Order for generating unit has been placed on BHEL.
3.	Upper Indravati HEP.	4 x 150	300.00	45.00	600	The excavation works of all the four dams namely Indravati, Podogoda, Kapoor and Muran are in progress. Concrete and masonary work of Indravati and Muran Dam are in progress.The other two dams are earnthen dams. Orders for T.G Sets have been placed on M/s FUJI, JAPAN, The excavation of the power house has been completed and concreting is in progress.
4.	Potteru small HE Project.	2 x3	5.46	1.00	6	Infrastructure works are in progress Tender specification for T.G. sets is under preparation.

Conversion of Manual Telephone Exchanges into Automatic Exchanges

1743. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to convert all the manual telephone exchanges in the country into automatic exchanges;

(b) if so, by which year it would be done and the steps taken in that direction; and

(c) by which year STD facility is expected to be extended to the Blocks and Sub-divisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Objectives have been formulated to automatise all manual local exchanges by the end of the Eighth Plan. It is proposed to extend STD facility up to the Sub-Divisional Headquarters by the end of the Eighth Plan.

Clearance to Hydel Project at Pooyamkutty, Kerala

1744. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether final clearance from all angles has been given to the hydel project at Pooyamkutty in Idukki District, Kerala;

(b) if so, the total allocation made for this project and when the work is likely to commence; and

(c) the total area of forest land that is estimated to be submerged by this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) Pooyamkutty stage-I (2 x 120 MW) hydel project in Kerala stands cleared by the Planning Commission subject to Forest clearance.

(b) The total allocation made for this project for Annual Plan 1988-89 is Rs. 25 lakhs. The work on this project would commence after the forest clearance is obtained.

(c) About 2800 hectares.

Coverage by Trivandrum TV Centre

1745. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total area covered by Trivandrum TV Station programmes;

(b) whether there is any proposal to further extend the coverage of telecast from Trivandrum;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) when Connanore, Kasargod and Wynad Districts in Kerala are to receive Trivandrum TV programmes?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) The programmes produced by Doordarshan Kendra. Trivandrum and telecast/relayed by the high power TV transmitters located at Trivendrum and Cochin and the low power TV transmitter located at Calicut are received over about 24,900 Sq. Kms. area of Kerala.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The existing low power (100

W) transmitter at Calicut is envisaged to be replaced by a high power (10MW) TV transmitter. When this materialises, the programmes of Trivandrum Doordarshan Kendra relayed by the Calicut transmitter would become available to a wider area including parts of Connanore, Malappuram, Wynad and Palghat Districts besides Kozhikode.

Expansion of A.I.R. Station of Calicut

1746. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to expand A.I.R. station at Calicut, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the area covered by the transmission from the Calicut A.I.R. at present;

(d) whether the capacity of the Calicut AIR is proposed to be increased; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). There is a proposal for the establishment of a 'Morning Information Programme' (Aaj Subah) Unit at AIR, Calicut.

(c) The Transmitter at Calicut covers 6500 Square Kilometers area.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir, The VIII Five Year Plan formulations envisage a scheme to upgrade the Calicut transmitter.

Policy on Standard of Media

1747. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

SHRI K. KUNJAMBU :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to frame any policy for rectifying the standard maintained by the Indian media; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). For Government controlled media, adequate guidelines exist and measures are continuously taken for improving their functioning. As regards the Press, the Government's policy is not to interfere in their internal functioning. However consistent with the said approach the Government provides various facilities for the healthy and balanced growth of the Press.

Setting up of Industries by NRI in Andhra Pradesh

1748. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications received from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to set up medium, large, heavy and small industries in Andhra Pradesh during 1983-84, 1984-85 1985-86 and 1986-87;

(b) the number and the details of the applications approved and the expected investment of NRI's ;

(c) the number of applications rejected year-wise; and

(d) the broad reasons for rejection of such applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). Since setting up of the Special Approval Committee (NRI) in November, 1983, Government have received 89 industrial licence applications from the non-resident Indians till date, to set up industrial units in the State of Andhra Pradesh, against which 45 letters of intent/SIA Registrations have been issued to them upto 30.6.1988. Details of these approvals are published in the Indian Investment Centre Newsletter. which is available in the Parliament Library. Only one proposal is pending decision with the Government and others have been rejected mainly on the grounds of adequate capacity having been already approved/established; non-availability of raw materials, proposals not being properly formulated etc. NRI investment in these approved projects is expected to be about Rs. 1727 lakh. Details of proposals in small scale sector are not being centrally maintained.

Issue of letters of intent to Andhra Pradesh

1749. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the number of letters of intent and D.G.T.D. registrations issued to Andhra Pradesh has reduced considerably since last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of applications for grant of letters of intent sent by the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation (APEDC) pending with Government and since when these are pending; and

(d) the reasons for delay in issuing the letter of intent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRYOF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The total below indicates the number of letters of intent, D.G.T.D. registrations granted during the years 1986, 1987 & 1988 (upto September) for Andhra Pradesh:

	1986	1987	1988 (upto Sept.)
Letters of Intent	111	112	58
D.G.T.D. Registrations	79	114	112

(c) and (d). At present there are only two industrial licence applications registered on 25.3.1988 and 25.10.1988 respectively of M/s. Andhra Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation which are at various stages of processing with the Government.

Allocation for Rural Electrification Instates

1750. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the details of allocation of funds for rural electrification in the different States, approved by the Planning Commission for the years 1987-88 and 1988-89, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : Statement I and II indicating state-wise allocation of funds for Rural electrification approved by the Planning Commission for 1987-88 and 1988-89 are given below.

STATEMENT-I

Allocation of funds for Rural Electrification in the different States-Statewise approved by the Planning Commission for 1987-88.

(Rs in lakhs)

S.No.	*State/UT*	*Rural Electrification*			*Total*
		State plan	*REC*	*MNP*	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	994	1006	0	2000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	195	195
3.	Assam	1500	570	1207	3277
4.	Bihar	50	1530	2000	3580
5.	Goa	0	0	0	0
6.	Gujarat	300	1000	0	1300
7.	Haryana	248	452	0	700
8.	Madhya Pradesh	30	600	50	680
9.	J & K	0	720	0	720
10.	Karnataka	292	583	0	876
11.	Kerala	0	386	0	386
12.	Madhya Pradesh	450	2300	1500	4250
13.	Maharashtra	4350	1250	0	5600
14.	Manipur	26	24	250	300
15.	Meghalaya	0	337	133	470
16.	Mizoram	0	0	300	300
17.	Nagaland	10	93	30	133

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Orissa	200	1232	800	2232
19.	Punjab	0	1978	0	1078
20.	Rajasthan	25	1425	510	1960
21.	Sikkim	30	200	15	245
22.	Tamil Nadu	1310	570	0	1880
23.	Tripura	0	242	50	292
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1091	2059	2800	5950
25.	West Bengal	50	2233	941	3224
26.	A & N	0	0	0	0
27.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
28.	Dadar Haveli	0	0	0	0
29.	Delhi	60	0	0	60
30.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
31.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0
	Total (States) & (U.Ts)	11016	19890	10781	41687

STATEMENT II

Allocation of funds for Rural Electrification in the different states-Statewise approved by the Planning Commission for 1998-99.

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	*State/U.Ts*	*State Plan*	*REC (N)*	*MNP*	*Total*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*
1.	Andhra Pradesh	300	1100	0	1400
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	100	—	200	300

1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*
3.	Assam	1650	577	1247	3474
4.	Bihar	300	1683	2200	4183
5.	Goa	40	—	250	40
6.	Gujarat	—	1200	—	1200
7.	Haryana	250	1000	—	1250
8.	Himachal Pradesh	30	660	20	710
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	790	—	790
10.	Karnataka	210	640	—	850
11.	Kerala	—	425	—	425
12.	Madhya Pradesh	575	2600	1600	4775
13.	Maharashtra	4725	1375	—	6100
14.	Manipur	25	25	375	425
15.	Meghalaya	—	400	200	600
16.	Mizoram	—	—	335	335
17.	Nagaland	50	100	75	225
18.	Orissa	150	1355	880	2385
19.	Punjab	—	1200	—	1200
20.	Rajasthan	300	1400	700	2400
21.	Sikkim	30	178	15	215
22.	Tamil Nadu	524	630	—	1154
23.	Tripura	—	380	80	460
24.	Uttar Pradesh	557	2200	3500	6257
25.	West Bengal	100	3000	1000	4100

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	Delhi	70	—	—	70
27.	Daman & Diu	1	—	—	1
	Total	9987	22910	12427	45324

Investment Plan in Power

1751. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any investment plan is being envisaged in the power sector during the next five years;

(b) if so, the total amount involved in the investment plan; and

(c) the details of the expenditure to be spent both on electricity generation and transmission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (c). The Eighth Five Year Plan (1990-95) has not yet been formulated and as such it is not possible to specify the amount likely to be spent on electricity generation and transmission during the Eighth Plan Period.

Money Order Service

1752. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced any scheme for the delivery of money-orders within a specified time frame ;

(b) if so, the salient features, thereof; and

(c) the cities which are to be covered under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir. A new Scheme called 'Speed Post Money Order Service' has been introduced with effect from 13.5 1988 to deliver money orders within a specified time frame.

(b) The salient features of this scheme are given in the Statement below.

(c) The Cities where the Speed Post facility will be extended, will be covered by Speed post Money Order Scheme also we have not yet finalised the next expansion programme of Speed Post Service.

STATEMENT

SPEED POST MONEYORDER SERVICE

1. *PURPOSE*

The service is being introduced w.e.f. 13.5.1988 to serve the public through a guarantee and time bound money transfer facility.

2. *CHARACTERISTICS*

* It ensures payment of cash at the doorsteps of the payee within 24/72 hours, as applicable in the case of Speed Post Service.

* We charge nominal additional Speed Post Moneyorder fee of Rs 5/- per Money order in addition to the standard Moneyorder Commission for this purpose.

* This service goes a step forward than the normal Speed Post Service in that it delivers the Moneyorders on Sundays and Holidays also. A nominal Fee of Rs 3/- is charged extra for this service.

3. *WHERE IS IT AVAILABLE ?*

All the 43 Speed Post Cities give people this service also.

4. *MONEY BACK GUARANTEE :*

In case the Speed Post Moneyorder is not paid within the time frame discussed above, the Speed Post Moneyorder Special Fee of Rs. 5/- (and 3/- charged for the Sundays and Holidays payment, if paid) will be refundable to the remitter of the Moneyorder.

Losses suffered by National Small Industries Corporation Ltd.

1753. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the paid up capital of the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. and the total loss suffered by it, so far;

(b) the extent of losses suffered by the Corporation in the fields of hire-purchase, marketing, turnkey projects etc;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed for the losses suffered by the Corporation; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). The paid up capital of the Corporation as on date is Rs. 36. 988 crores. The carried forward losses are of the order of Rs 4 crores as on 31.3.1988. NSIC has turned the corner and the accumulated losses are steadily declining. The Corporation has been making profits from the year 1982-83 onwards. The profits made during the last 6 years are of the order of Rs 3 crores, after providing for tax and reserve.

Indo-Japanese Economic Collaborations

1754. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Business delegation visited Japan in June, 1988;

(b) if so, whether the problems responsible for slow progress in Indo-Japanese Economic collaborations were discussed with the Japanese business leaders; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). An Indian delegation comprising the representatives of Government and Industry visited Japan from May 28 to June 2, 1988. The Indian delegation held discussions with Japanese officials and business community with a view to apprise them of the favourable climate in India for investment and technol-

ogy transfer, specially in high tech areas. This visit to Japan has helped in generating a greater appreciation of the steps taken by the Government to nationalise policies and streamline and simplify procedures.

S.T.D. Connection Between Dharmastala and Bangalore

1755. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to provide STD connection between Dharmastala and Bangalore in Karnataka in 1988-89; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

New Areas for Oil and Gas Discovery by ONGC

1756. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR :
SHRI V. TULSIRAM:
SHRIMATI MANEMMA ANJIAH :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission has discovered oil and gas deposits in some new areas in the country both offshore and onshore:

(b) if so, the details of the oil and gas deposits located by the ONGC till date State-wise; and

(c) the details of the approximate quantum of oil and gas expected to be yielded in those new locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. Oil/Gas has been discovered by ONGC in the following 8 new prospects during the year 1988-89 (April - October, 1988):-

Name of Prospect	*Name of State*	*Month of discovery*	*Oil/Gas*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*
ON LAND			
Chintalapalli	Andhra Pradesh	April, 1988	Gas
Adamtilla	Assam	May,1988	Gas
Mandapetta	Andhra Pradesh	September, 1988	Gas
Sonari	Assam	October, 1988	Oil & Gas

1	2	3	4
OFFSHORE			
SD-I	West Coast	July, 1988	Oil & Gas
SD-10	West Coast	August, 1988	Oil & Gas
SD-4	West Coast	August, 1988	Oil & Gas
PY-3	East Coast	Sept., 1988	Oil

(c) The extent of oil and gas expected to be available from the above prospects will be known only after these structures are delineated.

Profits Earned by Oil Companies

1757. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Oil Companies have earned profit during 1987-88;

(b) if so, the names of those oil companies;

(c) whether the Indian Oil Corporation earned profit in 1987-88;

(d) if so, to what extent it was more than the previous year; and

(e) the steps taken by the Indian Oil Corporation to further improve its performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These companies are; Oil & Natural Gas Commission, Oil India Ltd., India Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Madras Refineries Corporation Ltd., Cochin Refineries Ltd., Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd., Lubrizol India Ltd., Engineers India Ltd., Indo-Burma Petroleum Co. Ltd., and Balmer Lawrie Ltd.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Indian Oil Corporation earned a profit of Rs. 549 crores in 1987-88 which was Rs 175 crores more than the profit for the previous year (excluding profits accuring on previous year's transactions).

(e) The Indian Oil Corporation has taken the following measures to improve the performance:

(i) Strengthening the use of Zero Based Budgeting concept to ensure effective cost control of refining and marketing operations;

(ii) Close monitoring of the surplus funds investment to maximise the return;

(iii) Improvement in refining Operations and capacity utilisation by introducing modern plant maintenance techniques to reduce the down time; and

(iv) Implementation of energy conservation measures to improve productivity and middle distillate yields with the introduction of low cost debottlenecking system and micro processor based digital control system.

Export of Maruti cars

1758. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are good prospects for export of Maruti car to East European countries;

(b) if so, whether an agreement is expected to be reached with those countries and if so, the details thereof?

(c) what would be the terms and conditions of the agreement;

(d) the number of Maruti cars, of all types, expected to be exported to each country; and

(e) the effect of such export on the domestic demand?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A Five Year Frame Agreement for export of vehicles to Hungary was signed in 1987. 500 cars have been exported under this agreement. Further exports are expected to take place early in 1989. Vehicles are also expected to be exported to Yugoslavia in 1989. These sales would be on normal commercial terms, against payment in US $.

(d) During 1989, the volume of exports to East Europe is expected to be in the range of 3000-5000 vehicles.

(e) As Maruti will be producing vehicles in excess of its rated capacity, the export of a part of this excess production would not have any detrimental effect on the domestic market.

[*Translation*]

Automobile Industries set up with Foreign Collaboration

1759. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industries set up with foreign collaboration in the field of automobiles during the last three years and the number of industries, out of them set up in public sector;

(b) whether any annual target has been fixed for indigenisation for such industries in private sector; and

(c) if so, the industry-wise indigenisation achieved, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No new industrial licence has been issued either in public or private sector for setting up of a new unit for the manufacture of automobiles with foreign collaboration during the last 3 years.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In the passenger car sector, indigenisation level of 66 % has been achieved in Maruti cars during 1987-88. Similarly, 38.6% and 37.25% indigenisation levels have been achieved in the first phase of the approved Manufacturing programme of Contessa Classic and Premier 118 NE respectively which related to only engine and transmission. The new light commercial vehicle manufacturers like Allwyn Nissan Ltd., DCM-Toyota Ltd., Swaraj Mazda Ltd. and

Eicher Motors Ltd, have achieved indigenisation levels varying between 40 to 57% in their respective phases of approved manufacturing programme. In the two-wheeler sector, vehicles with new technology have achieved indigenisation level varying between 82% to 90% in their respective phase of approved phased manufacturing programme. In the case of Kinetic Honda, the company has achieved indigenisation level of 71.2% in their second phase of manufacturing programme.

Setting up of Mini Cement Plants in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh

1760. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether letters of intent have been issued for establishment of mini cement plants in hilly areas of U.P.;

(b) if so, their number and when they were used;

(c) the number of letters of intent utilised so far and the present position of the remaining letters of intent; and

(d) whether fresh efforts are being made to establish mini cement plants in these areas and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). 10 Letters of Intent (LOIs) have been issued since 1980 for setting up of mini cement plants in the State of Uttar Pradesh as per the details given below:-

Year	No. of LOIs issued
1980	2
1981	1
1982	6
1984	1

(c) Of the 10 letters of Intent, 1 has been converted into Industrial Licence. 8 Letters of Intent had to be cancelled after several extensions had been granted, as the entrepreneurs had not made satisfactory progress in fulfilling the conditions of the Letters of Intent. The remaining Letter of Intent is yet to be converte into industrial Lcience.

(d) Mini Cement Plants upto 100/200 TPD capacity based on VSK technology and utilising scattered and isolated deposits of limestone are generally encouraged. As and when such proposals supported by the State Governments are received, the same will be considered on merits as per the prevailing policy.

[*English*]

Setting up of Power Projects by NTPC and NHPC

1761. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power plants proposed to be set up by the National Thermal Power Corporation and the National Hydro Electric Power Corporation in the near future; and

(b) the projected outlay and the time by which these are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) and (b). The details of the new project proposals submitted for approval of Government, by the National Thermal Power Corporation and the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation are given in the statement below: -

STATEMENT

S.No.	*Name of the Project*	*Capacity (MW)*	*Estimated cost in (Rs. crores)*	*Year of likely completion*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
N.T.P.C.				
1.	Farakka III (1 x 500 MW)	500	562.14	1994-95
2.	Vindhyachal-I Additional Transmission System.	—	339.69	1992-93
3.	Rihand -II (2 x 500 MW)	1000	1304.68	1994-95 1995-96
4.	Vindhyachal II (2 x 500 MW)	1000	1409.60	1995-96 1996-97
5.	Manguru - I (2 x 500 MW)	1000	1447.40	2000-01 2001-02
6.	Dadri Gas - I (4x131 + 2 x 146 MW)	817	683.30	1990-91 1991-92 1992-94
7.	Chandrapur- I (2x 500MW)	1000	1424.87	2000-01 2001-02
8.	Yamunanagar —I (4x 210MW)	840	1351.14	1993-94 1994-95 1995-96
9.	North Karanpura- I (2 x 500 MW)	1000	1944.40	1995-96 1996-97
10.	Anta Gas -II (3 x 100 MW + 1 x 130 MW)	430	433.01	1991-92 1992-93
11.	Dadri Gas - II (2 x 131 MW + 1.146 MW)	408	340.36	1995-96 1996-97
	N.H.P.C.			
1.	Uri HEP (4 x 120) (MW)	480	866.0	7 Years after investment decision.

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Rangit HEP (3 x 20 M W)	60	150.93	5 years after investment decision.
3.	Salal HEP Stage II (3 x 115 MW)	345	296.20	4 years after investment decision.
4.	Chamera HEP St. II (3 x 100 MW)	300	411.50	5 Years of after investment decision.
5.	Baglihar HEP (3 x 150MW)	450	658.00	5 years after investment decision.
6.	Dhauliganga HEP St. I (4 x 70 MW)	280	403.15	7 2/3 years after investment decision.
7.	Sawalkot HEP (3 x 200 MW)	600	686.91	10 years after investment decision.
8.	Dhalashwari HEP (3 x 40 MW)	120	274.98	7 years after investment decision.

Study of Industries in Cooperative Sector

1762. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Small Industry Extension Training (NISIET) Hyderabad had made any study of industries in Cooperative sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of studies conducted by NISIET, Hyderabad on industries in the cooperative sector are as under:-

1. A review of the working of Mandya Multi-Purpose Ryot's Agricultural Cooperative Society, Mandya, Karnataka, 1967 —Sponsored by the Mandya Society.

2. Study of the Spread Effects and Impact of the Kaira district Milk Producers Cooperative Union Ltd., A nand (Dist. Kaira, Gujarat), 1971.
— Sponsored by NISIET

3. Six case studies on Industrial Cooperatives in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra and Punjab. The volume was published by the National Cooperative Union of India, 1972.
— Sponsored by the Commissioner for Industrial Cooperatives, Ministry of Industry, Govt. of India.

4. Study of Cooperative Industrial Estates in Kolhapur and Nasik of Maharashtra, 1972.
— Sponsored by NISIET.

5. A review of the working of the Tirupati Brass and Copper Workers' Cooperative Society, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, 1978.
— *Sponsored by NISIET.*

6. A review of the working of Silver Filigree Workers Cooperative Society, Karimnagar, Andhra Pradesh, 1988.
— Sponsored by the Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Development Corporation.

Allotment of Petrol Pumps in Andhra Pradesh

1763. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps allotted in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years; and

(b) the places where these petrol pumps have been opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) The oil industry has allotted 73 retail outlet (MS/HSD) dealerships in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years (1986-87 and 1987-88) :

(b) Out of the above, 48 retail outlets have since been commissioned. The names of these places are given in the Statement below.

STATEMENT

S.No.	*Name of the Location*
1	*2*
1.	Between Mulug Cross Road & Gudhapad Cross Road
2.	Navipet
3.	Hyderabad/ - (2 Dealer-Ships) Secunderabad
4.	Kovvur
5.	Miriyalguda
6.	Mehboobnagar
7.	Medchal
8.	Vinjamur
9.	Krosuru
10.	Yerragundaplam
11.	Mustabad
12.	Kakinada
13.	Malkapuram

1	2
14.	Vizianagaram City
15.	Nagayalanka
16.	Debback Cross Road
17.	Jeedimetla
18.	Gurrom Konda
19.	Tadapatri
20.	Autonagar
21.	Nizamabad
22.	Hyderabad
23.	Agripalle
24.	Kodumur
25.	Manugala
26.	Alluru
27.	Anandapuram
28.	Subbavaram
29.	Bowenpally
30.	Sattupalli
31.	Dronachalam
32.	Palakonda
33.	Veligonda
34.	Manuguru
35.	Nathavalasa
36.	Karimnagar City
37.	Kanakadripally
38.	Kurmanapalem
39.	Kesamudram
40.	Kosgi
41.	Prodattur
42.	Nidamanuru
43.	Thotamula
44.	Dharmapuri
45.	Lankalapalam
46.	Seetangram
47.	Kamadur
48.	Sangareddy

Improvement in Coal Sector

1764. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an improvement in the coal sector during the Seventh Plan period, so far;

(b) if so, how it has improved vis-a- vis the target set;

(c) whether there still persists a shortfall which is met through imports; and

(d) what is considered as a reasonable surplus in the sphere?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR

SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). There has been significant increase in production of coal in the country during the first three years of the Seventh Plan Company-wise, year-wise performance, vis-a-vis target, is indicated below:-

Coal production (In million tonnes)

Company	1985-86		1986-87		1987-88	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
Coal India Ltd.	133.50	134.11	143.50	144.74	158.00	159.05
Singareni Collieries Co.	16.00	15.66	18.00	16.58	20.00	16.40
Captive Collieries of Steel Plants/DVC	5.00	4.43	5.30	4.45	5.50	4.30
All India	154.50	154.20	166.80	168.77	188.50	179.75

The target of coal production in the current year has been fixed at 196.28 million tonnes. Coal production during the period upto Oct. 1988 has been 96.60 million tonnes as against the production of 90.26 million tonnes in the corresponding period last year.

(c) and (d). There is no shortfall in the availability of non coking coal taking the demand and availability on a national basis. This is borne out by the fact that the stocks of coal have been rising annual and stood at 33.73 million tonnes at the end of March 1988. However, shortages are experienced at times mostly in the Southern region on account of lower production than anticipated in Singareni Collieries and constraints in movement from distant coalfields.

The closing stock at the end of 1987-88 (March 31, 1988) represented a little over two months production. One month's production in stock is normally considered adequate.

Acquisition of land for Township at Kayamkulam, Kerala

1765. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land to be acquired for setting up the township for the Thermal power Station at Kayamkulam in Kerala by the National Thermal Power-Corporation;

(b) out of this, the details of land consisting of paddy field and inhabitated dry land separately;

(c) the number of families expected to be displaced as a result of it; and

(d) the efforts made to displace the least possible number of families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) It is tentatively estimated that the National Thermal Power Corporation would acquire about 260 acres of land for the

township of the thermal power station at Kayamkulam in Kerala.

(b) and (d). The details of the land and the number of families expected to be displaced would be known only after the surveys and investigation of the proposed site are completed. The proposed site is so located that the displacement of families is generally, as far as possible kept in the minimum.

Plan Expenditure of Public Sector Undertakings

1766. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether actual plan expenditure of public sector undertakings is likely to exceed the approved outlay;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to check such a situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) to (c). As the Seventh Plan will end on 31.3.1990, it is too early now to say whether the plan expenditure of the public sector enterprises will exceed the approved outlay.

Visit of Industrial Mission to USA

1767. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Engineering Industry has sponsored an industrial million to U.S.A.;

(b) if so, the details of circumstances leading to such sponsorship;

(c) whether this visit is likely to bring any useful results in mutual interests of both the countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount expected to be spent on the mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The visit of the Confederation of Engineering Industry delegation to U.S.A from 24th October to 4th November, 1988, was a follow-up of the MOU signed between CEI and Value Manufacturers Association (VMA) of America in February, 1988 for promoting industrial, technical and economic cooperation between the two countries.

(c) and (d). CEI has reported that they had meetings with various American Value Manufacturers who have shown keen interest for import of products like steel and alloy steel castings and ferrous castings etc. from India.

(e) The expenses on travelling, boarding and lodging, were borne by the individual members themselves.

World Administrative Radio Conference

1768. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Administrative Radio Conference under the auspices of the International Telecommunication Union was held at Geneva recently;

(b) if so, what was the purpose of the

Conference;

(c) what were deliberation of this Conference;

(d) whether this Conference was attended by officials from India;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps envisaged to make use of deliberations of the Conference?

THE MINISTER STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The purpose of the Conference was to (i) Plan the geo-stationary Satellite Orbit (GSO) and the associated Radio Frequency Spectrum so that every country has equitable access to these limited natural resources (ii) develop detailed allotment plans in certain frequency bands allocated to Fixed Satellite Service and (iii) Develop Plans for the Feeder Links of the Broadcasting Satellite Service.

(c) The Conference achieved the purpose for which it was called The Conference adopted improved radio regulatory provisions in some frequency bands and developed detailed allotment plans in some othe frequency bands allocaded to fixe satellite service. The conference also developed plans for Feeder Links for the Broadcasting Satellite Service (BSS) in the 11 GHz. Bands in Regions 1 and 3 converting Africa, Europe and Asia and Pacific.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The Conference was attended by a seven member Indian delegation comprising of representatives of Deptt. of Telecom., Deptt. of Space, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and External Affairs with Secretary (Telecom) as leader.

(f) GSO positions and Radio Frequency Spectrum allotted to India will be utilised for meeting our national requirements.

[*Translation*]

A.I.R. Station at Pithoragarh, U.P.

1769. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction work of AIR station at Pithoragarh (U.P.) will start during this financial year; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay and the steps being taken to expedite it?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). The site selected for the proposed ratio station at Pithoragarh has not been handed over by the State Government so far. The construction of the building can be taken up only after the site is handed over. The State Government authorities are being continuously reminded to handover the site.

[*English*]

LPG Facility in Kerala

1770. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities, towns and villages in Kerala where LPG agencies have been set up ;

(b) whether many parts of the rural areas in Kerala have not been provided with LPG facility;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the places from where demands have been received for setting up of LPG agencies; and

(e) the places proposed to be provided with LPG facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) to (c) and (e). LPG marketing is at present being extended by the oil industry, in a phased manner, to places with population of around 20,000 and above (as per 1981 census) and which provide adequate potential for viable marketing of the product. As on April 1, 1988, 82 towns/cities in Kerala State were provided with LPG facility. In addition, upto its Annual LPG Marketing Plan 1988-89, the oil industry has proposed to provide LPG distributorships at 49 locations in Kerala State, the particulars of which are given in the Statement below.

(d) Demand for LPG facility has been received from Elanji Thirumaradi, Palapuzha, Karumalloor Angad (Distt. Ernakulam) and Velianur (Distt. Kottayam).

STATEMENT

S.No.	Location
1	2
1.	Vypeen
2.	Kuthuparamba
3.	Perambra
4.	Thamarassery
5.	Payyoli
6.	Parappanangadi
7.	Pampady
8.	Aranmula
9.	Erumeli
10.	Mattanur
11.	Kattakada
12.	Feroke
13.	Kilikoloor/Kottamkara
14.	Thirurangadi
15.	Kunnamangalam
16.	Palghat/Pudusseri
17.	Kollengode
18.	Nilambur
19.	Aroor
20.	Chathanoor
21.	Puthupally
22.	Konni
23.	Karakulam
24.	Mallapally
25.	Soornad North/ Soornad South
26.	Anchal
27.	Mananthavadi
28.	Manar
29.	Chirayinkil
30.	Ranni

1	2
31.	Cochin U.A.
32.	Kodiyeri
33.	Calicut
34.	Quilon
35.	Manjeri
36.	Poonjar
37.	Sultan's Battery
38.	Palghat
39.	Trivandrum (2 dealerships)
40.	Cannanore
41.	Paiyangadi
42.	Alleppey
43.	Mąla
44.	Mulanthuruthy
45.	Changanacherry
46.	Kasargode
47.	Kottayam
48.	Nedu mudi
49.	Vadaseri Kara

Power Generation Cost in Gujarat

1771. SHRI RANJITSINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether per capita cost of power generated by the Gujarat State Electricity Board is comparatively higher than the All India level;

(b) whether the higher cost of power generation in Gujarat is owing to the sub-standard coal supplied to Gujarat State Electricity Board from distant coal mines of Madhya Pradesh and the heavy burden of rail freight; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to bring down the power-generation cost of the thermal power stations in the state?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Consumption of Power in Gujarat

1772. SHRI RANJITSINGH GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita consumption of power in Gujarat for the last two years as against the All India level;

(b) the total installed capacity of the power plants in Megawatt of the Gujarat State Electricity Board, power generated from these units and the power provided through National Grid from the power plants of Central, Sector during the last six months, ending 30 September, 1988, monthwise;

(c) whether Government are aware of the difficulty being faced by the Gujarat State Electricity Board in meeting the full demand of power ; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to augment the power generation capacity in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) The requisite information is given below:-

	Per capita Consumption (Kwh)	
Year	*Gujarat*	*All India*
1985-86	299	178
1986-87	320	191

(b) The required information is given in the Statement below.

(c) and (d). At present , the power supply position in Gujarat is quite satisfactory. During the period April, 1988- October, 1988 the power shortage in Gujarat was only 1.3% as compared to the All India average shortage of 8.0%. In order to increase power generating capacity in the State, a capacity of 1085 MW has been programmed to be added during the Seventh Plan, out of which 755 MW has already been added till 31st March, 1988. In addition, the State will also get its share of power from Central Sector Projects being set up in the Western Region.

STATEMENT

DETAILS OF ENERGY GENERATION AND CENTRAL SECTOR DISTRIBUTION IN GUJARAT

1. *ENERGY GENERATION (MU)*

Type	Capacity (MW) as 15.11.88	April 88	May 88	June 88	July 88	Aug. 88	Sept. 88	Oct. 88	April 88
Thermal	8152	1298	1455	1277					
Hydro	305	19	19	12	1	157	202	179	589
Total	3447	1455	1474	1289	982	972	1062	1172	8406

2. *DETAILS OF MONTH-WISE ENERGY SUPPLY FROM THE CENTRAL STATIONS OF KORBA AND VINDHYACHAL STPS TO GUJARAT.*

MONTHS	*(Figures in MU) Supply*
April, 1988	127.3
May, 1988	112.6

MONTHS	*(Figures in MU) Supply*
June,1988	113.6
July, 1988	91.8
August, 1988	144.2
September, 1988	168.3
TOTAL (April-Sept. ,88)	757.8

The above figures include supply from Vindhyachal STPS from August, 1988 when power started flowing to the Western Region from this station.

DRAWAL FROM TARAPUR ATOMIC POWER STATION

MONTHS	DRAWAL FROM TAPS (MU)
April, 1988	51.02
May,1988	51.94
June,1988	83.65
July,1988	102.06
August, 1988	100.14
September, 1988	102.41
Total (April-Sept., 1988)	491.22

LPG Connections in West Bengal

1773. DR. PHULRENU GUHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have registered themselves for LPG connections in Calcutta and other places in West Bengal in 1987 and 1988 ; and

(b) the time by which they are expected to be provided with LPG connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) The total number of persons registered for LPG connections in Calcutta and other parts of West Bengal as on 31.12. 87 and 1.10.88 were 1.49 lakhs and 1.86 lakhs respectively;

(b) Release of new LPG connections is done by the oil industry all over the country,

including in West Bengal, in a phased manner under its annual programme for enrolment of customers, subject to augmentation in availability of LPG.

Supplementary Report of Kelkar Committee

1774. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kelkar Committee set up to identify drugs for price control has submitted its supplementary report;

(b) if so, how many representation were received by the Kelkar Committee for inclusion of drugs alongwith their names; and

(c) the names of drugs recommended for price control in its supplementary report?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) to (c). A large number of representations were received against the earlier recommendations of the Kelkar Committee. The supplementary report submitted by the committee is under examination.

STD Calls Facility in Group Dialling Areas in Kerala

1775. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facility for receiving STD calls in Group Dialling areas has been discontinued in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether representations against this step have been received; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Incoming STD facility into Group Dialling Centres was disconnected in Kerala recently due to high call failure rate on such traffic. Due to limited availability of links in the MAX-III type exchanges and junctions between Main Automatic Exchanges of type—III, and Group Dialling Centres congestion and large failure of calls was noticed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Since the MAX III type exchanges, are not technically suitable to take STD traffic no solution is possible till these are replaced by electronic exchanges of the non-blocking type.

Advertisements Before Telecast of 'Mahabharat' Serial

1776. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Mahabharat' is being serialised on Doordarhsan;

(b) if so, the actual duration of transmission;

(c) whether it is a fact that advertisements are slowly encroaching upon the transmission time of the TV serial 'Mahabharat'; and

(d) if so, the actual time permitted to advertisements before the start of the serial?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The duration of each episode of the serial is 50 minutes.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The time given to commercial advertisements before the start of the serial is 15 minutes.

A.I.R News Bulletins in Regional Languages on Medium Wave

1777. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether AIR news bulletins from Delhi in different South Indian languages are broadcast on short wave;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether these broadcast are hardly audible outside the respective States;

(d) whether any news bulletins in regional languages are being broadcast on medium wave at present; and

(e) if so, the names of the languages and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The National News Bulletins in a number of regional languages including South Indian languages are originated from Delhi and relayed by the stations in the relevant regions. To facilitate this relay the news bulletins are broadcast on the short-wave transmitters from Delhi. These are beamed to the relevant regions and as such are not meant for listening in other regions.

(d) All the National News Bulletins in regional languages originated from Delhi are relayed by stations in the relevant regions on Medium-wave transmitters. The Regional News Bulletins originated from regional centres are also broadcast on Medium-wave.

(e) The list of National bulletins in regional languages originated from Delhi and relayed on Medium-wave may be seen in the Statement given below.

STATEMENT

List of National Bulletins in Regional Languages Originated from Delhi on Medium-wave

1. Arunachali
2. Assamese
3. Bengali
4. Dogri
5. Gujarati
6. Kannada
7. Kashmiri
8. Malayalam
9. Marathi
10. Nepali
11. Oriya
12. Punjabi
13. Sanskrit
14. Sindhi

15. Tamil

16. Telugu

17. Urdu

Waiting List for Telephone Connections in Punjab

1778. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting lists for telephone connections in Punjab, district-wise as on 30 September, 1988;

(b) the steps taken to provide telephone connections early; and

(c) the names of the places where telephone exchanges are proposed to be set up in Punjab in the Seventh Plan and the likely capacity of each of these exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The requisite information is given in the statement - I below:-

(b) It is proposed to provide telephone connections to the applicants registered upto 1.4.87 in the Main Automatic Exchange-I (MAX-I) areas & Upto 1.4.88 in the MAX-II areas and upto 1.4.90 in the MAX-III and Manual areas by the end of the Seventh Plan by carrying out expansions of the existing exchanges and by installing new telephone exchanges in the State.

(c) A list of New Telephone Exchanges planned during the remaining period of the Seventh Plan is given in the Statement II below:-

STATEMENT — I

Waiting List As on 30.9.1988.

Sl.No.	*District*	*Waiting list as on 30.9.1988*
1	*2*	*3*
1.	Patiala	4338
2.	Sangrur	592
3.	Bhatinda	1190
4.	Jallandhar	1035
5.	Kapurthala	1060
6.	Faridkot	1105
7.	Gurdaspur	1129
8.	Ludhiana	27312

1	*2*	*3*
9.	Hoshiarpur	1100
10.	Ropar	3815
11.	Amritsar	6679
12.	Ferozpur	1047

STATEMENT— II

I. Large Exchanges:

Sl.No.	*Name*	*Type & Capacity*
1	2	3
1.	Ludhiana	13 K RLUs
2.	Jallandhar	4.5K Parented to digital TAX.
3.	Jallandhar-Model Town	15 K RLUs
4.	Amritsar	10 K (5 K already commissioned on 30.4.88)

II SAXs (50 Lines).

1. Khanewal
2. Gujarwal
3. Jarg
4. Gudian Kalan
5. Rawani
6. Andlu
7. Matewar
8. Panjgnain
9. Kukrawala
10. Nijjarpura

1	2	3
11.	Kaunke Kalan	
12.	Nurpur let	
13.	Halwara	
14.	Bhulpur	
III.	25 Lines SAXs.	
1.	Binewal	
2.	Kamahi Devi	
3.	Phuglana	
4.	Chunni Kalan	
5.	Tanda	
6.	Ram Sahai	
7.	Nagal Kalan	
8.	Lutheri	
9.	Padiala	
10.	Khazaria	
11.	Khizrabad	
12.	Haquash	
13.	Jallawal	
14.	Jaijandoaba	
15.	Bhindra	
16.	Chaurwal	
17.	Kaulgarh	
18.	Sangatpur	

1	2	3
19.	Killi	
20.	Sangian	
21.	Kaniwali	
22.	Fattenwala	
23.	Sikhwala	
24.	Nihal Khera	
25.	Paranwala	
26.	Beganwali	
27.	Maur	
28.	Drolibhali	
29.	Bilaspur	
30.	Ghal Kalan	
31.	Acharwal	
32.	Baraundi	
33.	Bahari	
34.	Chaukiman	
35.	Shahauru	
36.	Bholapur	
37.	Sidhwan Kalan	
38.	Dhamot	
39.	Lalsuri Kalan	
40.	Hawas.	

Note: The Commissioning of New Exchanges is subject to the availability of stores in time.

Modernisation of Telecommunications System in Punjab

1779. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any new proposal to modernise the telecommunications system in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the telecommunication system in Punjab is likely to be modernised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes Sir. as part of the objectives of the Five Year Plan, schemes and proposals are prepared to modernise and expand the Telecom network in the state.

(b) It is proposed to modernise all the remaining Telecommunication system in the State under the following broad objectives during the Eighth Five Year Plan:-

i) replace all the existing manual exchanges by automatic exchanges;

ii) replace all the unserviceable exchanges which have completed 25 years of service (as on 1.4.90);

iii) replace all existing small automatic exchanges by electronic ILT-64/C-DOT 128 port/200 Electronic SXS (PAM)

iv) to install new electronic E-10 B and ICP Cross-bar exchange in all the important centres of the State;

v) All Sub Divisional Headquarters/ Equivalent Block Development Offices and Tehsils to be provided with STD facility irrespective of their exchange capacities ;

vi) all industrial growth centres, tourist and pilgrimage places are to be provided with STD facility ; and

vii) all telex exchanges to be made electronic at the end of Eighth Plan.

(c) Does not arise

Telecommunication Facilities in Tribal Areas in Rajasthan

1780. SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any relaxation in norms for providing telecommunication facilities in tribal areas; and

(b) if so, the number and names of places proposed to be covered by such facility in the tribal villages in the districts of Banswara, Doongarpur, Sawai Madhopur, Alwar and Bharatpur in Rajasthan upto 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Impact of T.V. Programmes on Agriculture, Family Planning, Education Etc.

1781. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the impact of the T.V. programme particularly of those pertaining to agriculture, family planning, educational courses, etc.;

(b) if so, the details of the findins in each case; and

(c) the steps being contemplated to improve the programmes on the basis of such findings?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A recent study conducted in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh has revealed that viewership of agriculture telecast is limited and varies from programme to programme. The viewers of agricultural programmes have found them useful and informative whereas non viewers termed the telecasts as unattractive.

Studies conducted by Doordarshan to find out the viewership and impact of telespots on family planning in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana suggest that the spot telecast at prime time have sizeable laudience whereas spots at other point of time have limited audience.The viewers have, by and large, appreciated the sports and found them useful.

The findings of a study conducted in a city of Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat each by an outside research organisation, commissioned by Doordarshan, to ascertain the viewing and views of target audience on Higher Education Programme produced by University Grants Commission indicate that viewing to such programmes was very low. However, majority of those who have viewed the programme have found the subject appropriately covered.

(c) Improvement in the quality of programmes is a continuous process and the findings of surveys conducted by various Agencies are kept in view while planning programmes.

Clearance to Pending Power Projects of U.P.

1782.DR. B.L.SHAILESH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects in Uttar Pradesh which are help up, pending clearance by the Central Electricity Authority resulting in continued deterioration in the power situation in the State; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure an early clearance of all these power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) There power projects of Uttar Pradesh are presently under examination in the Central Electricity Authority.

(b) The clearance of projects for execution depends upon several factors including comprehensiveness of project reports, expeditious response of the project authorities various comments/observations of the Central Electricity Authority/Central Water Commission, availability of various inputs and clearances such as fuel availability, water availability, environment and forest clearance, clearance from State Pollution Control Board and National Airports Authority etc. and the relative priority accorded by the State Government to the projects in terms of allocation of funds, resolution of inter-State disputes in sharing of water resources. Efforts are made to expedite the various clearances involved.

Proposal for Tiny VSK Cement Plants

1783. SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for setting up of small scale VSK Cement units and clinker grinding units in rural areas possessing limestone reserves to ensure productive exploitation of mall and scattered reserves at low capital cost and at the same time generating larger employment avenues; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Mini cement plants upto 100/120 TPD capacity based on VSK technology and scattered deposits of limestone are generally encouraged. Such proposals as and when received are considered on merits and in accordance with the prevailing policy.

Technologies Developed for production of Cement

1784. SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the broad features of technologies for production of cement developed by central laboratories institutions and individual entrepreneurs;

(b) whether any study has been made or sponsored by the Government or IDBI/ BICP/NCBM etc. about the working of different technologies;

(c) if so, the reported recommendations and action taken thereon; and

(d) the role envisaged by Government for the mini and small scale cement units in the Eighth Plan, and the scope of Government assistance for encouraging the employment, capital and energy efficient technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Technology for the manufacture of cement using Vertical Shaft Kiln (VSK) technology has been developed by the National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCBM) and the Regional Research Laboratory (RRL)(, Jorhat. M/s. Shree Engineers of Jodhpur also manufacture and supply tiny cement plants based an vertical shaft kiln technology.

The size of cement plants of NCBM presently under operation vary from 20 tpd to 200 tpd. The cement plants based on RRL technology are in the sizes of 20 to 100 tpd. The cement plants being supplied by M/s. Shree Engineers range between 20 to 50 tpd.

(b) and (c). At the instance of the Ministry of Industry, NCBM, have initiated a study of VSK cement plants based on different technologies, jointly with IDBI.

(d) As per the existing policy, mini cement plants based on VSK technology and scattered limestone deposits are generally encouraged. These plants are exempt from price and distribution controls which are applicable to large cement plants. Mini cement plants set up in the small scale industrial sector are eligible to receive incentives that are available to small scale industrial undertakings. Entrepreneurs setting up mini cement plants are also eligible to receive incentives that are available to other entrepreneurs setting up industrial units in centrally notified backward areas.

Supply of Coke Breeze to Cement Plants

1785. SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether vertical shaft kiln small scale cement plants are experiencing difficulty in procuring their requirements of coke breeze, a waste product of steel plants;

(b) whether Government have received representations for reserving coke breeze for small scale industrial units making ce ment; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereon and action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). In their representation of May, 1986 All India Mini Cement Plants Association had *inter-alia,* requested that the requirement of Coke-Breeze from Steel Authority of India may be earmarked by fixing a reasonable price by the Government which would ensure the availability of required quantity of fuel and simultaneously avoid the exploitation by the middle agencies. The matter was discussed in an inter-departmental Meeting convened by this Ministry in May, 1987 wherein the Presidents of Federation Mini Cement Plants and Federation of Mini Cement Manufacturer's Association were also present.

It was recommended in that Meeting that Mini Cement Plants should approach SAIL either directly or through their Association for their requirement of Coke-Breeze of mixed Coke which the steel plants would make available either by road or by rail as per the requirement of Mini Cement Plants. As regards price of Coke-Breeze, the representatives of M/s. SAIL and the Department of Steel were requested to look into the possibility of keeping the price of Coke-Breeze relatively stable for a period of atleast one year. The SAIL have however, informed that this will depend on their commercial judgement.

Application for Telephone Connection in Kerala

1786. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in Kerala where applications for new telephone connections are pending;

(b) the number of such pending applications; and

(c) the measures taken for providing telephone connection early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b). The information is furnished below district-wise:

Name of the District	*Waiting list as on 31.3.1988*
1	*2*
Alleppey	4206
Calicut	9761
Cannanore	8214

1	*2*
Ernakulam	16555
Idikki	2751
Kasaragod	4366
Kottayam	9973
Malappuram	5898
Palghat	3847
Pathanamthitta	4695
Quilon	5662
Trichur	10266
Trivandrum	9707
Wynad	1311
Total:	97212

(c) The objectives of the Seventh Plan is as mentioned below:- to meet the telephone demand by 1.4. 1990

UNIT	*Meeting average demand for the period registered upto.*
Metro Districts	30.9.1986
Major Districts	30.9.1986
Minor Districts	1.4.1987
Circles	
MAX I (Large size exchanges)	1.4.1987
MAX II (medium size exchanges)	1.4.1988
MAX I III (Small) & Manual Exchanges	1.4.1990

The remaining waiting list shall be cleared progressively during the Eighth Plan period. Measures are being taken to expand the telephone network accordingly.

Production of Power at Loktak Project

1787. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the average daily production of power by the Loktak Project and its percentage in terms of the total installed capacity during the last two years;

(b) the regions outside Manipur getting the benefit of there Loktak Power region-wise allocation in terms of Megawatts; and

(c) the reasons for fluctuations in the production, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) Average daily production from Loktak Hydroelectric Project during the 1986-87 and 1987-88 was 1.09 million units and 1.109 million units respectively. This was 88.97% and 90.39% respectively of the total installed capacity of the project.

(b) Power from Loktak Project is being drawn by Assam and Nagaland in addition to Manipur. No formal allocation of power from the project has been made and the States in the region draw power from the project according to their requirements.

(c) During 1986-87 and 1987-88, there was no fluctuation in the total and daily average production. Occasional fluctuation in production, however, arise due to less demand during off peak hours and transmission constraints.

Amalgamation of Samphelat Exchange with Imphal Exchange

1788. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the Samphelpat exchange will be amalgamated with the Main Imphal exchange by installing a bigger exchange;

(b) whether the delay in the completion of the new Exchange building at Imphal has stood in the way of the expansion of the imphal exchange capacity;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, what are the other reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) :(a) There is no Telephone Exchange by the name Samphelpat near Imphal. However, there is a MAX II exchange at lamphelpat near Imphal. It is proposed to set up a Remote Line Unit (RLU) of E10-B Digital Electronic type at Lamphelpat during the 1992-93 parented to the main E10B exchange proposed for Imphal. On its commissioning, the remote line unit will replace the existing MAX II exchange at Lamphelpat.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

(d) It is already planned to expand the Imphal Telephone Exchange capacity by 1000 lines during 1988-89 and hence the question of delay does not arise.

Use of Alcohol as Substitute Fuel

1789. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has been conducting research into prospects of using

alcohol as substitute fuel; and

(b) if so, the present position of the project?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Research is being conducted into prospects of using methanol and ethanol as substitute fuel. The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has also been investigating the suitability of petro-crops for alternative liquid hydro carbon materials. Studies have been made on 54 potential petro-crops and hydro cracking of the same has also been undertaken. Samples are characterised in terms of gases, naptha, kerosene gas oil and water. These studies clearly indicated the feasibility of obtaining petroleum, hydro carbons from petro-crops. Research in bio-technology is also of being directed to evolve more efficient processes for conversion of cellusolse to alcohol.

The studies indicated that in the Indian situation methanol gives possibilities of utilising a wider resources base (as it can be produced from gas, coal and biogas) while ethanol could also be considered if research and development cellulosic conversion to ethanol or other bio-solar technologies are successful and lead to vastly increased quantities of ethanol. The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is spearheading R & D in all these areas. As a result, the technology for the use of methanol in engines to replace diesel upto 15 to 20% has been developed in co-operation with the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun. The introduction of methanol also results in marked improvement in the quality of exhaust due to significant reduction in smoke and noxious oxides.

The Department of Non-conventional Energy Sources followed this up by a R & D project for field trials. Under this programme, ten Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses are now running in Delhi in different routes with methanol/diesel fuel, so that feed back data of the performance of the vehicles & engines would be obtained under actual commuting conditions. The buses have already covered 4,00,000 kms. So far they have not faced any operational difficulty on account of methanol introduction. The trial also confirms the expected improvement in the quality of exhaust from the environmental point of view.

On ethanol, apart from demonstrating that ethanol can be used as fuel in engines, R & D has resulted in the development of processes for efficient conversion of cellulosic material to ethanol. A pilot plant sponsored by Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is under construction at the IIT, Delhi campus to develop these processes towards on industrial scale.

Scheme to encourage Small, Medium and Vernacular Newspapers

1790. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :
SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive scheme has been prepared to encourage small, medium and vernacular newspapers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to introduce special newsprint and advertisement quotas for small newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN-

FORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). The Government is committed to the development and growth of small, medium and language newspapers in the country. In pursuance thereof, an Expert Committee, which includes representatives of 5 press organisations, has been constituted to look into their problems and make available its recommendations to the Government. The vernacular newspapers fall mostly in the category of small and medium newspapers.

(c) Small and medium newspapers already enjoy many concessions in the matter of newsprint and Government advertisements.

Price Control on Tyre Industry

1791. SHRI S. B . SIDNAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to impose price control on tyre industry;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any final decision has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Paperless Trunk Exchanges in Andhra Pradesh

1792. SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made during the last three years to introduce "Paperloss trunk exchanges" in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the amount earmarked for that purpose and the amount already spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Indigenous computerised equipment is proposed to be installed at Vijayawada. A prototype system is being installed at Bhopal and orders will be placed after successful trials. At Hyderabad the existing trunk manual exchange is proposed to be replaced by an imported Computerised Trunk Exchange equipments. Global tenders for this have been received and are being evaluated. The purchase order will be issued after completion of all formalities including clearance from the Department of Electronics to import the equipment.

(b) The estimated cost of Project for Vijayawada Computerised Trunk Exchange is about Rs 75.00 lakhs. For Hyderabad the cost details are not known as the tenders are under evaluation. No expenditure has so far been incurred either at Vijayawada or Hyderabad for the provision of computerised trunk exchanges.

Utilisation of Fly-Ash in Cement Industry

1793. SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the position of stocks of fly-ash at various thermal power stations;

(b) whether any scheme has been formulated for utilisation/disposal for fly-ash and setting up a national body therefor and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the facilities and concessions pro-

posed to be given for encouraging its utilisation in cement making construction, etc.; and

(d) the estimated sale price per tonne of fly-ash?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) The quantity of fly ash produced by thermal power stations in the country was about 30.0 million tonnes during 1987-88; the total quantity of stock of ash accumulated so far cannot be estimated, as it is generated at Several locations under different conditions and large areas of low lying land have been reclaimed after use as ash disposal areas.

(b) and (c). The ash produced at the coal based power stations can be utilised for several purposes such as, the manufacture of bricks, block-making pozzolanic portland cement, road building and construction materials. The National Workship on Coal-Ash Utilisation in India held recently at New Delhi has inter-alia emphasised the need for creating an apex body at the National level to promote and give expert advice to the producers as well as the users on all techno-commercial matters with a view to promoting large scale utilisation of fly ash.

(d) No commercial price for sale of fly ash has been fixed by the Government.

Reduction in prices of Rifampicin

1794. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reduced the price or Rifampicin, an anti-TB drug;

(b) if so, what was its earlier price and what is the present price; and

(c) the average landed cost of imported drug and the CIF price of the intermediates per Kg. used for the production of the drug in the country; at present?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The price of Rifampicin bulk drugs fixed at Rs 3000 per Kg. w.e.f. 22-10-87 has been revised to Rs 2500 per kg. w.e.f. 28.9.88.

(c) In the current Import and Export Policy (April, 1988-March, 1991) Rifampicin has been put in Appendix, 3, Part A i.e. list of limited permissible items.

(d) The landed costs of intermediates considered while fixing the price at Rs. 3,000/- per kg. are given below:-

1. 3 Formyl Rifampicin SV Rs 2479.62 per kg.

2. 1-Amine-4 Methyl Piperazine Rs 639.03 per kg.

Raising Height of Panchet Dam of DVC

1795. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise the height of Panchet Dam of the Damodar Valley Corporation ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) and (b). The Damodar Valley Corporation have proposed to raise the height of Panchet Dam from El 425 to EL 445.

Revival of sick units in Orissa

1796. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps take by Government for the revival of the sick industrial units in Orissa;

(b) the number of units fallen sick in Orissa as on 30 June, 1988; and

(c) the details of sick units revived so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) For revival of sick industrial units, Government of India have got a uniform policy for the whole country including Orissa. Some of the important aspects are as follows:—

i) The Government have enacted a comprehensive legislation namely " The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985." A quasi-judicial body designated as " The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has been set up under the Act to deal with the problems of sick industrial companies in an effective manner, which has become operational with effect from the 15th May, 1987.

ii) The Reserve Bank of India have issued guidelines to the banks for strengthening the monitoring systems and for arresting industrial sickness at the incipient stage so that corrective measures are taken in time.

iii) The banks have also been directed by the Reserve Bank of India to formulate rehabilitation packages for the revival of potentially viable units. The banks and financial institutions evolve rehabilitation packages for the revival of sick units.

iv) Reserve Bank of India have also issued guidelines separately to the banks indicating parameters within which banks could grant reliefs and concessions for rehabilitation of potentially viable sick units without reference to RBI both in the large and small scale sectors.

v) Government of India introduced a Margin Money Scheme with a view to supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in reducing the incidence of sickness in the small scale sector. Under the liberalised scheme the maximum amount of assistance per unit available to sick small scale units for rehabilitation has been increased from Rs. 20,00 to Rs. 50,000.

(b) As per the latest information available from the RBI, there were 10 sick industrial units in the organised sector in Orissa as at the end of June, 1987.

(c) As per the information available from Government of Orissa, 10 units have referred their cases to Board for Industrial and financial Reconstruction whose final decision is awaited.

Applicants for Telephone Connections in Manipur

1797. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicant for telephone connections pending as on 31st July, 1988 in the Manipur, town-wise break-up;

(b) the time by which the telephone connection will be provided either in a phased manner or unblock:

(c) whether any provision has been made in the next Five Year Plan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The waiting list as on 31.7.1988 was 658 for Imphal, 2 for Churachandpur, 8 for Moreh and 1 for Bishenpur. There was no waiting list at other places.

(b) It is proposed to provide about 500 telephone connections in Imphal and clear the waiting list at Bishenpur, Churachandpur and Moreh gradually during 1988-89 subject to technical feasibility. The remaining waiting list at Imphal is proposed to be progressively wiped out during the balance period of Seventh Plan and early Eighth Plan.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. As per the draft objectives of Eighth Five year Plan, telephone connections are likely to be available practically on demand in the whole of Manipur.

Increase in Capacity of Telephone Exchange in Manipur

1798. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to increase the capacities of the telephone exchanges in the district headquarters of Manipur;

(b) whether any time bound programme has been drawn in this regard;

(c) if so, the details threof;

(d) the present installed capacities in the district headquarters, district-wise ; and

(e) whether trunk call facilities are available inter-district and between district headquarters and the State capital Imphal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) to (d). The proposed expansions based on demand/ justification and other details are given in the Statement below.

(e) Yes Sir. all the district Headquarters, except Tamenlong, have trunk call facilities.

STATEMENT

Sl.No.	Name of DHQ	District	Type of Exch.	E/C W.C/W/L	Eqpt. allotted/Commissioning		Remarks
1.	Imphal	Manipur West	PRX	300/2540/442	3000-4000 4000-4500	1988-89 1990-91	
2.	Thoubal	Thoubal	MAX-III	45/24/-	100 MAX-II	1989-90	
3.	Chandal	Tengopal	MAX-III	100/46/-	C-DOT-128 /Port	1989-90	
4.	Bisenpur	Bisenpur	MAX-III	50/46/4	—do—	—do—	
5.	Churachandpur	Churachandpur	MAX-II	200/96/26	—do—	—do—	the exchange has still spare capacity.
6.	Ukhrul	Ukhrul	MAX-III	100/59/2	C-DOT-128 Port	1989-90	
7.	Tamenlong	Tamenlong	MAX-III	25/17/-	100 MAX-II	1989-90	
8.	Karong (Senapati)	Karong	MAX-III	35/31/-	100 MAX-II	1989-90	

Note: Commissioning of exchange depends upon availability of equipment and existance of demand.

Extension of MRTP Act to Building Contractors

1799. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to bring building contractors under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act;

(b) if so, the time by which Government propose to make provision in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). An undertaking engaged in rendering service as building contractor to its customers is covered under the existing provisions of Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969.

[*English*]

Production of Good Quality of Synthetic Fibres

1800. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to give a boost to the production of improved quality of synthetic fibres;

(b) whether any fiscal relief has been given or is proposed to be given to the synthetic industry therefor; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) Synthetic fibres of international quality are already being produced in the country in adequate quantities.

(b) and (c). Excise levies on various synthetic fibres were reduced as follows effective from March, 1, 1988;

Polyester Staple Fibre		From Rs 25 to Rs 15.66 / Kg.
Polyester Filament Yarn	:	From Rs. 83.75 to Rs 56.12 /kg
Nylon Filament Yarn	:	From Rs 70 to Rs 41.76 /kg
Acrylic Fibre	:	From Rs 10 to Rs 8.35/kg.

Committee on Trade Margins of Chemists and Druggists

1801. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had appointed an expert committee on the issue of trade margins of Chemists and Druggists;

(b) if so, the reference of the Committee;

(c) the context in which the committee had been appointed; and

(d) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) to (d). An export Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. I.Z. Bhatty, Director, General, National Council of Applied Economic Research was constituted on 14 th September, 1988. A copy of the order which is self-explanatory is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6784/88]

(*Interruptions*)

12.00 hrs

[*English*]

SHRI. A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) : Sir, one of our M.Ps. has been brutally assaulted..(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) Sir, please see the atrocities committed by the CPI (M) government in Kerala against our M.P...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please go to your seats...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat) : Please look at this Sir. It is a part of the conspiracy of the Kerala Government to kill me. ...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please go to your seats first...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seats...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil) : Sir, you must summon the police officers to this House...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please order...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why are the Members doing like this?

(*Interruptions*)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please order. Listen to me...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) : You trained the police when you were in power and they had beaten me also..(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Thampan Thomas, what is this? Why are you arguing...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is not the State Assembly. What is this?..

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Go to your seats and listen to me....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Go to your seats first...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Thampan Thomas, you take your seat ...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Vakkom Purushothaman, go back to your seat..

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot allow...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take you seats...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Already I have received a complaint from Shri Vijayaraghavan...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Why all of you are shouting ? Please take your seats...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Go to your seat first. What is this? You listen to me first..

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you want to fight, go outside and fight, not here...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you want to fight, both of you go outside and fight, not here, This is not the place..(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Mullappally Ramachandran, go to your place. What is this?...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : By shouting , what are you going to achieve...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to me first...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Law and order is a State problem. But since he is a Member of the House, he has already given the complaint to me. I have referred it to the Home Minister, I am going to find out the facts.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot allow to discuss the law and order problem here. I have already referred it to the Home Minister

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is Member of the House and he has given the complaint, I have to find out the facts.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have not allowed. I told him that since he is a Member of the House, I have received the complaint and I have referred to the Home Minister. That is all. Other things I cannot allow to be discussed here.

SHRI. P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) :

The hon. Member has given you the complaint.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have referred it to the Home Minister.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : you can summon the officers concerned to the bar of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That I cannot say now.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : On 19th November when I visited my constituency..

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, why are you allowing him?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : I am speaking as a Member of Parliament. Sir, on 19th November when I visited my constituency in connection with Shrimati Indira Gandhi's birthday, I was attacked ...

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Why are you allowing him?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He wants to say something. As I am listening to you, I listening to him. also.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : They have not taken action against the concerned people. They attacked me on 19th November in Quilon. (*Interruptions*) Of course, we will take action but as a Member of Parliament I am bringing it to your notice.(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Krishna Kumar, you give it in writing, I will see. I will find out the facts.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have given an adjournment motion. One million workers of Delhi industrial area are on strike from today, they are demanding a minimum wage of Rs 1050.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot allow the adjournment motion. I have alread allowed a Statement under Rule 377 on it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : That will not do, we want at least Calling Attention should be allowed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Give in writing , I will see.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, three workers died yesterday because of police firing..

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Give it in writing.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, I have given an adjournment motion on a very shocking news which has appeared today about the police forcing tribal youths to incest with mother and sister-in-law in Rajasthan. (*Interruptions*). It is a Central subject, it pertains to the tribal youth. The report says that IG police is trying to give protection to the policemen involved. (*Interruptions*) ... incesting with mother and sister-in-law, can you imagine such a thing? It is a shocking.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Listen to me. This is a law and order problem.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): No, no, they are tribals, we want a statement from the 'Minister.

MR. Deputy Speaker: You give it in

some other form, not an adjournment motion.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : In what form?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can give a Calling Attention, I will consider.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The Industries Minister should make a statement today on the industrial strike. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First you give it in writing. I will pass it on to the Minister.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : I have given adjournment-motion about week long strike by one million workers. I would like to know what happened to my adjournment-motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already said about it.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU (Madras North): In North Madras area thousands of fishermen are facing imminent danger of sea erosion...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will consider it.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU: I wrote to the hon. Prime Minister also. I have given a call-attention notice. Let the Government construct a wall as in the Marine Drive in Bombay. I have given a notice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already told you, I will consider it.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Are you allowing call-attention on the industrial strike?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You give it in writing. I will find out.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: (Panaji): Yesterday the statement and the remarks made by Kumari Mamata Banerjee and myself regarding CPM in West Bengal have been expunged. We have a very clear statement about three scandals (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY - SPEAKER : No. I cannot allow.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Why? The remarks of Shri Buta Singh have been expunged. Our remarks made yesterday have been expunged.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Speaker has already give the ruling. I cannot reconsider.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : The remarks made by the Prime Minister, the remarks made by the Home Minister, the remarks made by us, everything has been expunged. I would like all those decisions to be reviewed by you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whatever the chair decides that is final. It cannot be questioned.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot allow.

We cannot be partial. All are equal here. Whatever the rules are saying, we are following them. That is all.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : In Kerala, the right of democratic agitation is being suppressed by the police... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is a State subject I cannot allow.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Papers to be laid. Shri V. Vengal Rao.

12.12 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

Review on the working of and Annual Report of Bengal Immunity Limited, Calcutta for 1987-88

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Review by the Government on the working of the Bengal Immunity Limited Calcutta, for the year 1987-88.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bengal Immunity Limited Calcutta, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6748/88]

Oil Industry Development Board (Employees' Travelling Allowance) Amendment Rules, 1988, the view on the working of and Annual Report of Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. for 1987-88 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy of the Oil Industry Development Board (Emplolyees' Travelling Allowance) Amendment Rules, 1988 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. (1038(E) in Gazettee of India dated the 28th October, 1988 under sub-section (3) of section 31 of the Oil Industry Development Act, 1974. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6749/88]

(2) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited, for the Year 1987-88.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6750/88]

(b) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Lubrizol India Limited, Bombay, for the year 1987-88.

(ii) Annual Report of the Lubrizol India Limited, Bombay, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6751/88]

Notification under Finance Act, 1979 *Re*: Exemption from Payment of foreign travel tax

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AF-

FAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): On behalf of Shri Ajit Panja, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 1056(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd November, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption from payment of foreign travel tax to the delegation from U.S.S.R. who visited India in November, 1988, under section 41 of the Finance Act, 1979. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6752/88]

Indian Telegraph (Eleventh Amendment) Rules, 1988

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Indian Telegraph (Eleventh Amendment) Rules, 1988 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 916(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 1988 under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1985. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6753/88]

Annual Report of and Review on the Working of Punjab State Electricity Board for 1986-87

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Punjab State Electricity Board, Patiala, for the year 1986-87 undersub-section (1) of section 75 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 read with Clause (c) (iv) of the Proclamation dated the 11th May, 1987 issued by the President in relation to the State of Punjab.

(2) Review by the Government (Hindi and English versions) on the working of the Punjab State Electricity Board, Patiala, for the year 1986-87.

(3) A copy of the Annual Statement of Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Punjab State Electricity Board, Patiala, for the year 1986-87 together with Audited Report thereon, under sub-section (5) of section 69 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 read with Clause (c) (iv) of the Proclamation dated the 11th May, 1987 issued by the President in relation to the State of Punjab.

(4) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Annual Statement of Accounts of the Punjab State Electricity Board, Patiala, for the year 1986-87. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6754/88]

Notifications under Companies Act, 1956

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) The Companies (Central

Government's) General Rules and Forms (Amendment) Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 479(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd April, 1988.

(ii) The Company Law Board (Bench) (Amendment) Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. S.O. 560(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th June 1988.

(iii) The Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms (Amendment) Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 694(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 1988.

(iv) The Companies (Particulars of Employees) (Amendment) Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. GSR 695(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 1988.

(v) The Cost Accounting Records (Chemical Industries) Amendment Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 732 in Gazette of India dated the 17th September, 1988.

(vi) The Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 782(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 1988.

(vii) The Companies (Fees and Applications) (Amendment) Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 783(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 1988.

(viii) The Manufacturing and other Companies (Auditor's Report) Order, 1988 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 909(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th September, 1988. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6755/88]

(2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 481(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd April, 1988 making certain amendments to the Notification No. G.S.R. 507(E) dated the 24th June, 1985 under sub-section (3) of section 637 of the Companies Act, 1956. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6756/88]

(3) A copy each of the Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1988.

(i) G.S.R. 781(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 1988 appointing the 15th July, 1988 as the date on which the provisions of sections 3, 57(a), 63 and 67 of the said Act shall come into force.

(ii) S.O. 559(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 1988 appointing the 15th June, 1988 as the date on which the provisions of the said Act specified in the Schedule shall come into force. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6757/88]

[Sh. M. Arunachalam]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 641 of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) G.S.R. 480(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd April, 1988 making certain amendments in Table A of Schedule I Annexed to the said Act.

(ii) G.S.R. 784(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 1988 making certain amendments in Schedule V, VI and XII of the said Act. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6758/88]

(5) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 909(E) Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th September, 1988 containing corrigendum to Notification No. G.S.R. 783(E) dated the 13th July, 1988. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6759/88]

12.04 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Indian Contract (Amendment) Bill, 1988, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at sitting held on the 21st November, 1988."

INDIAN CONTRACT (AMENDMENT) BILL

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the Indian Contract (Amendment) Bill, 1988, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

12.04 1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

[*English*]

Forty-Ninth Report

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN (Alleppey): I beg to present the Forty-ninth Report (Hindi and English version) of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Twenty-second Report on Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Limited.

(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: (Jadavpur): Yesterday 3 INTUC workers died because of police firing. We want a full discussion. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You give it in writing. I will find out.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.A. DORA (Srikakulam): We have given a substantive motion against the Governor of A.P

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Speaker told you yesterday, he will consider it.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA (Karnal): Here is a letter sent by Registered Post AD from DDA, Delhi to me in September. It is lying scattered. I live in Balwantrai Mehta Lane. It was picked up by Mr. Rahul Srivastav, a press representative and handed over to me. It is a registered letter. Just imagine a registered, official letter addressed to an M.P. not received for three months!

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I told you to give it in writing. I will pass it on to the Minister and find out the facts.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Today many flights have been cancelled without notice. It is causing great inconvenience to the passengers. Please ask the Minister to make a statement.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati): All flights have been cancelled...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give it in writing. I will pass it on to the Minister and find out the facts. I will convey the members' concern to the Minister.

SHRI G.G. SWELL (Shillong): There must be a discussion on the Indian Airlines and Air India in this House. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your concern, I will pass on to the Minister and find out the facts.

12.16 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[*English*]

Sixty-Second Report

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): I beg to move:-

> "That this House do agree with the Sixty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 21st November, 1988."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr.Banatwalla: Are you moving your amendment?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Yes. I am moving my amendment.

I beg to move:

"That for the original motion, *substitute*—

> "The Report be referred back to the Committee to provide time for discussion during this week on communal situation and violence in several parts of the country, particularly in Muzaffarnagar, Khatoli and Aligarh in U.P."

You will remember that on the very first day, I had given notice for an adjournment motion on this particular subject. The Hon. Speaker at that particular time was pleased to tell us that the subject on communal disturbance and violence will be taken up for discussion. We had insisted that it shall be taken up on the very first day of the Session. Assurance was given that it will be taken up. But now nearly 50% of this Session is over. 50% of

[Sh. G.M. Banatwalla]
the days allotted for this particular Session exhausted and still there is no sign and no indication whatsoever as to when this House will take up this very sensitive question. The situation is explosive and it is agonising to find that our Business Advisory Committee totally ignored the feelings and sentiments expressed in this House. I very strongly plead that in view of the seriousness, sensitiveness and explosive nature of the situation, the earliest date should be allotted for the discussion of the communal situation and communal violence. We have to see that proper communal harmony and amity is restored and established.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government and this House to accept this particular amendment to the Report of the Business Advisory Committee and provide time in this week itself for a discussion on communal situation and violence in several parts of the country.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: The sense of the House is that we may consider what Shri G.M. Banatwalla has said in the next meeting of the Business Advisory Committee. The situation is not that explosive.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: 50% of the Session is over and we are merely living on assurances.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: 50% is still there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you withdrawing your amendment?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: No.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now I shall put the amendment moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"The Report be referred back to the Committee to provide time for discussion during this week on communal situation and violence in several parts of the country particularly in Muzaffarnagar, Khatoli and Aligarh in U.P."

The motion was negatived

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Sixty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 21st November, 1988."

The motion was adopted

12.20 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

(i) Need to complete the hydel power Project, Indravati on 6 time

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK (Kalahandi): Sir, power is one of the basic infrastructures for development. The Hydel Power Project of Indravati in the State of Orissa, construction work of which has been taken up by the National Power Construction Corporation, is not progressing satisfactorily. This is causing apprehension that it may not be commissioned on time. A high-level monitoring is essential to see that it is completed in time.

(ii) Need to retain Central Plantation Crop Research Institute, Hirchalli, Tumkur with I.C.A.R. itself

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur): Sir, the Central Plantation Crop Research Institute, Hirchalli, Tumkur was established

by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in 1958 to conduct research on arecanut and other related crops for the benefit of Maidan tracts of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The total area of this centre is 16-24 hectares. it also acts as a centre of the All India Co-ordinated coconut and arecanut improvement project. This centre has not so far been provided with full staff and now it is being suggested that the centre may be handed over to the University of Agricultural Science, Bangalore. The Centre is at present doing trials with coconut varieties and hybrids and developing integrated farming system involving these crops.

I would, therefore, request the Minister of Agriculture that since this centre is doing good research work for the benefit of arecanut and other crops, which will benefit farmers of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, the Hirehalli centre should remain with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research itself and should not be transferred to the University of Agricultural Science, Bangalore. I also request that more staff may be provided so that research work could be pursued further.

12.21 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

(iii) Need to take appropriate steps to save Konark Sun Temple and Jagannath Temple in Orissa from the effects of erosion

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri): Sir, the Konark Sun Temple and the Jagannath Temple, Puri are being affected by erosion. The studies undertaken by Ravenshaw College, Cuttack indicate that chlorideion concentration, present in the atmosphere, gets diluted in the rain water and settles down on the surface of the temple causing stone erossion which affects the two temples mainly in rainy season.

The diluted ammonia or Zince-zilico floride solution, used by ISI in cleaning process is also accelerating biological corrosion as alkaline medium helps the growth of algae and some commonmoss. The study claims that the chemicals used for cleaning are likely to destroy the structure. The random plantation of trees around the temple will not solve the problem.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to consider the study made by the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack so that these two historical monuments could be saved.

[*Translation*]

(iv) Need to complete the remaining portion of rail link between Daitari and Banspani in Orissa

*SHRI HARIHAR SOREN (Keonjhar): Sir, development of infrastructure facilities such as roads, railway and port are essential pre-requisites for development of the mineral resources in Orissa. Although Orissa is endowed with vast and varied mineral resources, development of infrastructure facilities leaves much room for improvement.

In this connection, development of a direct rail link from the mining areas around Jeda, Barbil and Koira with Paradeep Port is most urgent and needs to be completed at the earliest. Construction of this rail link connecting Banaspani with Jakhapura has been sanctioned by Government of India and part of this link between Daitari and Jakhapura has already been constructed and opened for traffic. The portion between Daitari and Banspani remains to be completed. It is necessary that this rail link is

*Transcation of the matter Originally raised in Oriya.

[Sh. Harihar Soren]
established during the Seventh Plan so that the export of iron ore through Paradeep Port could become most remunerative and attractive to the foreign buyers. Since due to constrains of sources, this project has not been made any progress, I urge upon the Government of India to consider favourably the proposal of M/s Hyuandai Corporation of South Korea.

(v) Need to increase the quantum of assistance to the victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy

SHRI K.N. PRADHAN (Bhopal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we shall be observing fourth anniversary of Bhopal Gas tragedy on 3rd Dec., 1988. While on one hand, people of Bhopal have to face for reaching and complicated effects of gas, on the other hand, steps taken for rehabilitation are quite inadequate in the background of vast requirements.

Only Rs. 80 crores have been spent during the last four years, out of which Rs. 76.62 crores have been provided by the Central Government in the form of financial assistance. This assistance has been given on loan basis at the interest of 9.25 percent per annum, recovery of which has also been started.

The State Government has submitted a seven year working plan of Rs. 371 crores to the Central Government Several requirements have not been induced therein. Similarly, keeping in view the price rice, the work plan might have to be extended beyond seven years. Ninth Finance Commission has recommended long-term interest free loans. The Central Government should arrange for a provision of at least Rs. 45 crores and release the same immediately.

[*English*]

(vi) Need to make available essential data of 1981 census and rectify the mistake of bracketing Pahari and Gojri in Hindi Group of languages in Jammu and Kashmir

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): It is unfortunate that most of the important details of the 1981 census are not available, even when the next census is falling due within a matter of two years. Most of the table that threw light on the socio-economic scenario previously, have been withheld by the Census Commission of India. Even the literacy figures depicting the status of various communities in India have not been released so far.

In my opinion, it amounts to suppression of information from the general public.

The Commission has also bracketed recognised languages into a lump and then characterised them as languages belonging to Hindi group of languages. This grouping is irrational and arbitrary. A case in point is the treatment meted out to Pahari and Gojri languages which are written and spoken languages in the J&K State. Pahari is spo ken by about 14 lakh people in the J & K state and it has been recogniged as a language in the constitution of J&K State. This language has a very rich stock of literature and it is a distinct language and does not fall within the Hindi group of languages. Similarly, Gojri is a language by itself. Bracketing Pahari and Gojri in J&K State with Hindi group of languages seems to be a mistake which will have to be rectified.

It is high time that the Government realise that Parliament alone is the supreme body to enunciate policy in such matters.

[*Translation*]

(vii) Need for timely completion of the Ganga cleaning project and taking up such projects for other rivers

DR. A.K. PATEL (Mehsana): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Prime Minister had declared a time bound project of Rs. 200 crores under Ganga Cleaning Project but work is proceeding at a snails pace. We do not know when this project will be completed.

This is an important project for the country. Therefore, all efforts should be made to complete this project within the stipulated time. Besides, it is very essential to start work on various projects related to environments & cleaning of other rivers of the country. I would further suggest that House should be kept apprised of the progress made from time to time.

[*English*]

(viii) Need for providing relief to the drought affected people of Mirzapur district in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj): Rabi crops have been damaged on a large scale in Mirzapur district due to untimely rains, as also due to absence of water in dams, resulting in discontentment among the people. This is a drought-prone district in the country. Time and again it suffers from unprecedented droughts. It was hoped earlier that this year the monsoon would be a boon for the agriculturists but due to untimely and scanty rains, rabi crops in some areas have totally been damaged while in some other areas, these have been partly damaged.

In view of the above, I request the Minister of Agriculture to send a team from the Centre to assess the damage and to start the relief work. The realisation of arrears should be postponed and other relief works which are necessary in drought areas should be immediately started.

(ix) Need to fulfil demands of industrial workers of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh going on strike

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA (Vishnupur): The 7 days industrial strike in all industrial areas of Delhi and Ghaziabad starts from 22nd November in support of workers' demands to curb price rise, minimum wage of Rs. 1050/-, variable DA at the rate of Rs. 2/- per point of the Consumer Price Index along with demands against closures, lock-outs and lay-offs, against corruption in labour department, against the practice of contract labour; to demand equal pay for equal work, against police atrocities on workers and trade unions, against anti-labour laws and for the demand of creches at work sites. The call for the strike has been given by the Centre of Indian Trade Unions.

The workers' demands are fully justified and I would request the Government to pursue the matter with Delhi Administration and Uttar Pradesh Government so that these demands could be fulfilled.

12.32 hrs.

MONOPOLIES AND RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES (AMENDMENT) BILL—*Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up further consideration of the motion moved by Shri J. Vengal Rao on the 21st November, 1988. Shri Shantaram Naik to continue his speech.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): Mr. Chairman Sir, yesterday while initiating the discussion Shri Madhav Reddi said that in the past we have amended the MRTP Act 1969 several times and all these times we have favoured monopolists and we have diluted the Act. Shri Somnath Chatterjee was making certain side comments also to say that this Bill is being moved so that the Congress Party would like to have funds, etc. I suppose when he speaks he will not be coming to the main Bill as such; but his main contention will be on the aspect of funds. I would like to tell Shri Chatterjee that the Congress Party has come to power out of love and affection of the people of this country; no amount of money can change situations. If we have failed in certain respects people have also put us aside and put somebody else in power. At that time also money was not effective.

Mr. Chairman, no doubt we have amended this Act several times. But not each and every amendment—I have taken pains to go through each and every amendment—favours the industrialists. The 1974 Amendment which was introduced after the Act came into force was for the purpose of defining in stricter terms the interconnected undertakings and to bring or impart Sections 370 of the Companies' Act by way of an explanation in the present Act. It was in fact strengthening the Act and not diluting it.

As far as the Amendment of 1980 is concerned, it only gives Explanation VII which reads:

> "Where goods of any description produced in India by an undertaking have been exported to a country outside India, then the goods so exported shall not be taken into account in computing for the purpose of this Clause—
>
> (i) the total goods of that description that are produced in India by that undertaking; or
>
> (ii) the total goods of this description that are produced, supplied or distributed in India or in substantial part thereof."

So, only this amendment of 1987, at the most we can say, favours some industrialists. The greater object is that we wanted to boost up export trade but some member at the most by stretch of imagination can say that it was brought for the purpose of favouring industrialists and exporters. But as far as 1982 amendment is concerned it was to strengthen the definition of licensed capacity by addition of 2 (d) and (2) (g).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please try to conclude.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Sir, I have done lot of home work so allow me a few more minutes.

As far as 1983 amendment is concerned I do not think you will object to this because it supports Parliament. In fact all the legislations in the country have been amended in ths line which requires that any regulation or rules under the Act should be laid before Parliament. What is wrong in that? Even such amendment of the nature of 1983 were not excluded by Shri Madhav Reddi ji.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Sir, I am making very relevant points so allow me to have my say.

Now take 1984 amendment. It is entirely peoples' amendment and if you are objecting to 1984 amendment then it is very disgusting because through those amendments of 1984 what was sought to be done by the Government is that certain practices

with respect to unfair trade practices were mentioned very clearly. Now 36(a) says:

> "The practice of making any statement whether oral or in writing or by visible representation-(i) falsely represents that the goods are of a particular standard, quality, grade, composition, style or model; (ii) falsely represents that the services are of a particular standard, quality or grade; (iii) falsely represents any re-built, second-hand, renovated, re-conditioned or old goods as new goods."

Now if you look at 36(b) you will find it is again peoples' amendment where through 26(b) consumers were given the right to directly file complaints before the Commission by adding the words "from any trade, association or from any consumer or a registered consumer association consumer is a member of consumers association or not." These specific words were inserted so that the entire Act was given in the hands of the people or voluntary organisations.

Similarly other amendments were brought for the purpose of giving powers of temporary injunction. Supposing in certain cases unfair trade practice is going on there is no immediate control that can be exercised it is only through the power of temporary injunction provided for that such unfair trade practices can be controlled. It is this power which was given through 1984 amendment and, therefore, it is in the interest of the consumer and not monopolists. (*Interruptions*) As far as 12B is concerned, a clause for compensation was inserted for the first time whereby a consumer, who suffers by way of unfair trade practices, can straightaway approach the Commission for compensation. For compensation entitled under this type of suit, such a beneficial provision was provided for.

Then, under 13A, a provision was made for the compliance. If an unfair trade practice is noted and directions ar given, then for the purpose of compliance, 13A was sought to be added.

Secondly, the 1986 amendment. Coming to unfair trade practices—since you would like me to be brief-today, there are several unfair trade practices which are going on. Therefore, this Act has become more relevant not only to control the monopolistic tendencies but also to control unfair trade practices. Today, you find that average consumer is deceived. Even in the case of television, they say: You bring your old set and we will give a concession of Rs. 3,000. Today, I have read an advertisement in the case of typewriter: You give your old typewriter; you will be given Rs. 3,000 concession. Then again, with respect to mango juice, some companies pretend that they are providing mango juice directly—genuine mango juice—against which cases are going on under the MRTP Act. With respect to soap, toothpaste, etc., the impression which is given to the common man is so much false that in spite of ban on advertisements through TV, newspapers, today the average consumer does not know which soap meant for him is better, which is the toothpaste which he should use from his point of view. Gifts are offered. But the price of the gift is included in the item. So, these practices are going on through the advertisements. But one aspect is never mentioned that is price factor. Nobody says that a particular commodity, except a few advertisements, that this will be the price of a commodity. Therefore, the MRTP Act and the Commission have to look into these aspects.

A list has been given of the pending cases before the MRTP Commission in its report itself. A case is pending against companies, like Usha International Limited, for misleading advertisements offering various prizes to promote the sale of Usha fans.

[Sh. Shantaram Naik]
Then, against other companies, various cases are pending. I would not like to list them. But all these cases basically reflect one thing—falsely representing through *advertisements and other media.*

With respect to prizes, gifts, concessions, all these are bogus. Even when gifts are given, the prices of the gifts are included in these items. The MRTP Commission has to take such false representations very seriously. It is no doubt that the MRTP Commission takes these cases seriously. But nevertheless many cases are pending. In matters of consumer protection, such cases should not remain pending. (*Interruptions*)

As far as indigenous technology is concerned, I have said yesterday also that in the case of indigenous technology, we have to give a boost. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: I don't know why they are interrupting. In protest, I am sitting.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri): Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the very purpose of the Act is not being defeated. Of course, I have no objection to the present legislation. The amendment is in regard to the indigenous technology. That is not objectionable and I support it. But the fact remains and I would like to invite your attention to your own figures, that within three years, the ten big industrial houses have increased their assets to Rs. 8427 crores.

You have also answered a question in this House where you said that the value of assets of large industrial houses increased by 21.8 per cent, 9.6 per cent and 13.7 per cent during the last three years, that is 1984, 1985 and 1986-87 respectively. The cumulative effect of these three years is more than forty per cent.

What was the purpose of this enactment? The primary purpose was to break the concentration of economic power and concentration of wealth in a few hands. I think, the enactment has not been implemented and it has not served that purpose.

Then, about the restrictive trade practices, I am affraid that the objective has not been achieved. Why? I accept that liberalization is necessary and you have achieved the results; your industrial production has gone up, there has been improvement in technology. But the fact remains that we need to evolve a new strategy which shall avoid concentration of economic power and concentration of wealth. If you do not do that, you can well imagine what will happen. It was in pursuance of the basic objectives of the Directive Principles that this enactment was enacted.

There is another aspect that we are liberalising stage by stage. Has any exercise been made to see the effect of liberalization on non-MRTP and non-FERA companies. If an exercise has been made, please let us know the result?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): The amendment is not about liberalization, it is about investment and technology.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: This is a part of the liberalization policy. Even today, he said in the question hour that it is as a liberalization measure. But I do not object to the liberalization measures, but the question is whether it would mean that we will allow concentration of economic power and concentration of wealth to an extent which will totally defeat our objectives. I have studies the liberalization policy in China and Soviet Russia and other communist coun-

tries, but the fact remains that they have initially established an egalitarian society and after that they have liberalised their policies in this respect. You have to consider this and evolve a new policy. I do not say that you stop liberalization, or stop the import of technology, but you must evolve some strategy which will not allow the concentration to that extent. Of course, a little bit of concentration will be there, but it should not be to an extent that within three years, their assets should increase to such an extent. You should seriously consider the impact of liberalization on the non-MRTP and non-FERA companies. That is also important. You know how the entire purpose is being defeated. Do you know how they manage the MRTP houses and non-FERA houses? I would say that the Commission has completely failed. This has to be examined.

Another point to which I would like to invite the attention of the Hon. Minister is, and it has been widely talked about, that you have increased the limit from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 crores. When the proposal for Rs. 100 crores was introduced, I supported it in this House. But now you are increasing it to Rs. 200.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): Sir, there was an amendment to this and it is only Rs. 100 crores.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: What I am saying is that you may have a proposal in the Ministry to raise the limit from Rs. 100 crores to Rs. 200 crores.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: It is not correct, Sir.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Sir, my submission is that today during the Question Hour the Hon. Minister said that.. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please let him speak. He needs no support.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Sir, Mr. Chatterjee's support will spoil my speech because his cause is different and my cause is different. My cause is to strengthen the democracy which strengthens socialism and his cause is only to strengthen socialism.

I was saying that today itself the Hon. Minister in reply to a question stated that there are some proposals regarding the amending Bill and what are these proposals he did not specify. He should not speak like this. It is not something which should be kept secret. Let it be discussed and debated. It is a very serious matter. We are changing the course of our economic policy. What are the proposals under consideration cannot be kept secret. Let there be a debate on these proposals. My worry is not that you are going for the liberalisation; in fact, it has been reported in the Press that by this liberalisation policy the MRTP and non-FERA companies will be benefited and in turn the economic picture, the growth of the self-generated economy would be distorted. With that background in mind I support the Bill and request the Hon. Minister to take up these measures with serious consideration and examine them in depth.

In the last I would also like to invite the attention of the Hon. Minister to the Speech of the Prime Minister as Finance Minister which he delivered on 28th December in this House. It may be taken note of.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Chairman Sir, this seemingly innocuous and apparently desirable amendment brought forward supposedly in the national interest and by way of giving alleged recognition to the development of indigenous technology again shows the unholy alliance between this Government and its benefactors, viz. the monopoly and big

[Sh. Somnath Chatterjee]
business houses. Outwardly, the Bill is as innocent looking as our hon. Minister is amiable. But it clearly exposes the fact that this Government is tied to the apron strings of a handful of industrialists and business houses who are having the best of all the worlds in this country under the present Government. It is proved by the fact that only a handful of industrialists are today controlling nearly 85 per cent of the industrial assets of this country.

Sir, never before in this country, have the monopolists and the big business houses had it so good as under the present dispensation and that is why our Prime Minister is now the young hero of those who are making money and mostly black money and also of those who are making a mockery of our industrial policy and planning process. As was rightly pointed out by Shri Madhav Reddi, the history of industrial development in this country is the history of concentration of greater and greater economic power in the hands of fewer and fewer people. That is why, we find today that a parallel economy controlled by black money to the extent of Rs. 40,000 crores or more is having greater impact on our economy than the regular economic developments in the country. And the result is havoc in our economic and industrial life. We proclaim ourselves to be a socialists republic. We are reminded of it every minute. At least by Preamble, we are socialistic. Mr. Mohanty was also talking of socialism. But what are his party and government doing?

Our Directive Principles which are held to be one of the basic structures of our Constitution provide that the Government should direct its policy to secure distribution of ownership and control of the material resources of the community to subserve the common good in the best way possible. Article 39(c) says that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment. These directive principles are proclaimed to be the very plank of our economy and our socialist republic. But our commitment has been undermined to the extent that the policies and programmes of this Government have deviated from this commitment. I need not be the only one saying this. Mr. Mohanty who was speaking from the Treasury Benches also stated the same.

The MRTP Act was passed in 1969 with a great deal of fanfare and declaring a good deal of commitment to the basic structure of our Constitution. The Act was brought onto the Statue Book in 1969 expressly, with the object of giving effect to our directive principles and for further control of monopolists and for the prohibition of monopolistic and restrictive trade practices. Now, has the Act achieved that object? The hon. Minister cannot say that on an amendment of this nature, we cannot talk of objectives of the Act. But you have to test every proposed amendment with the touch-stone of whether that amendment will fulfil the objectives of the Act as stated in the Preamble, to give effect to the directive principles of state policy.

I am not going to the elaboration of the amendments that have already been made. But Sir, there is no doubt that this is the eighth amendment and seven amendments have already been made. This is the eighth amendment in 18 years. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether even a single amendment has been directed towards imposing greator control over concentration of economic power, or dilution of concentration of wealth, or prevention of money power being utilised for purposes opposed to the common good.

It has to be the touch-stone of every amendment. I am not going into what Mr. Shantaram Naik had said. He thought that by

dealing with the amendments, he could make out a case.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can continue after the lunch. The House adjourns for lunch and will meet at 12 P.M.

13.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at seven minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MONOPOLIES AND RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES (AMENDMENT) BILL-*CONTD.*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee to continue his speech.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur): Sir, I want to know whether interruptions are allowed.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): If they are relevant, pertinent and intelligent.

Sir, as I was staying just before the recess, we have to consider all the amendments of this important Act from the point of view whether they subserve the objectives of this Act. As I said, the objectives of this Act are based on the mandate of the Directive principles of State policy. You have heard of that Mr. Minister, I am sure.

Therefore, what is necessary is to see whether the seven amendments which have been passed already have in any way strengthened the proper application of the Act or whether it has loosened the grip over the big monopoly houses and big business houses. Sir, I am not going into the elaborate consideration of the previous amendments. But one amendment is very important. Sir, have you got a copy of this Act?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I have got.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Section 20 of this Act in Chapter III, deals with concentration of economic power. When the Act was first brought and it became law, it said:

> That the Act could be applicable to undertakings, the assets of which will be not less than twenty crores of rupees apart from other types of undertakings.

Sir, in one stroke of pen by Act 38 of 1985 under the present Government, which is looking towards 21st century, the amount of Rs. 20 crores became overnight one hundred crores and Mr. Mohanty was expressing his worry and anxiety that it might be now changed to two hundred crores of rupees.

Sir, in one stroke of pen, how many undertakings have gone out of the ambit of Section 20 of this Act, namely Chapter III which deals with concentration of economic power. Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister for what purpose this amendment was made by the present Government. Compared to this Government, the previous Government of Indira Gandhi was a socialist Government. Section 22 A was introduced in the Act in 1982 — Act 32 of 1982. Shri Shantaram Naik made a detailed study of this Act. What happened was that for the first time this section 22 A was introduced which gave power to the Government to grant exemption to business undertakings which are within the ambit of this Act from the

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operation of the two most important provisions of this Act, viz. section 21 and section 22. Section 21 deals with expansion of an undertaking and section 22 deals with establishment of new undertakings. Therefore, if the Government wants it can exempt any company or any industrial establishment or any business house however big it may be, from the operation of these two provisions. But section 22 A earlier restricted it to certain types of industries viz. industries or services of high national priority — of course, it was vague — or for production of services meant exclusively for exports or with regard to undertakings in free trade zone. Therefore, these three types of business undertakings can be exempted from the operation of this Act. Now, what does the present Bill seek to achieve? Another type of industry is sought to be inserted into this Act which will also be totally outside, if the Government so wants by issuing a notification, the operation of the provisions of this Act. I would like to know in the name of encouraging indigenous technology whether or not Government is taking powers in its hand to grant exemption for substantial expansion of any industrial business under the section which is otherwise hit by Section 21 or establishment of new undertaking controlled by section 22 of the Act only because it is supposedly using indigenous technology. I would like to know which technology which is indigenously developed in this country has not been utilised for industrial purposes because of the MRTP Act. What is the raison d'etre of bringing this amendment that only big business houses or monopoly houses can exploit the indigenous technology? What steps have you taken to find out what type of indigenous technology is available? Have any efforts been made to exploit them by industrial houses which do not come within the ambit of this Act? This is very very important. Why has the Government not made efforts? It is not lack of resources. It has got all the power under the Constitution of India. Entire industries have been taken over by them by declaring industries as important for the country. They have taken away from the jurisdiction of the State Government most of the industries. Therefore, what are the difficulties in the way of this Government in encouraging non-monopoly industries or non-big business houses from utilising that technology? Why must this country always remain at the mercy of big business houses and monopoly houses who have already concentrated huge economic power in their hands for the purpose of industrial development and then we will be completely at their dictates and wishes?

A very serious charge has been made yesterday by Mr. Madhav Reddi that in the name of utilising indigenous technology what is intended to be done is really to import technology from outside and to pass it off as an indigenous technology.

Then by this the floodgates will be opened and suspetiously the imported technology will come and undertake garb, indigenous technology with the help of the proposed amendment, these technologies will be utilised and they will be outside the purview of this Act and Reddi Act as well. Now, what is the present position so far as the applicability of this Act for the last eighteen years is concerned? It is very important to know. So far as section 22 A is concerned, initially 27 industries were made eligible for exemption. Mr. Home Minister, why don't you listen something relevant? Now you have become so Boforised that you do not want to hear anything. Out of these 27 industries, 20 industries have also been exempted under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act. That means they do not have to obtain any licence if they set up industries that are notified by the Central Government in backward districts. Another 54 industries have subsequently been added to the list — I hope this is not a news to you, Mr. Minister — bringing the total to 81.

52 industries have been delicensed bringing the total of industries to 72 which are exempt under the IDR Act. This is the achievement of the present government. Only two conditions have so far been imposed for his getting the exemption under section 22 A, that is, promoters contribution will not be less than 25 per cent — which they can easily manage — and the debt equity ratio will not be more than 2:1. These are the only two conditions which they will very happily fulfil. These big business houses are able to fulfil these two conditions. Therefore, a cursory study of the different amendments and the implementation of this law will show that there has been very fas loosening of all types of controls over these business houses and the monopoly houses. The process had started in 1980 but it has been very much accelerated since 1985 when the present Government has come into existence In the name of increased export earnings, there is total liberalisation. If you challenge liberalisation, they will say: "Well you do not want exports." Exports to which country? We are completely at the mercy of these big capitalist countries where day by day the value of our Indian rupee is falling. Therefore, we have to export more to earn as much as we were earning earlier. Greater export is not resulting in greater earning but is resulting in earning of the same amount because of the fall in the value of the rupee.

Now, what has been the result of the functioning of this Act? Twenty of the largest undertakings in this country, in 1986, had assets equivalent to our country's annual budget of Rs. 29,000 crores in 1988-89. These twenty big houses showed a growth rate of 9.6 per cent, at the end of December, 1987, over the corresponding month in the previous year. The total assets of these houses are estimated at Rs. 25,540 crores in December, 1987, against Rs. 23,298 crores in December 1986. In one year, more than Rs. 2,300 crores have been enhanced. The turn over and profit before tax of only these twenty houses were estimated at Rs. 26,706 crores and Rs. 1,116 crorés respectively during 1987. Sixty-one big industrial undertakings within the meaning of section 20 of the MRTP Act, 1984 have been ascertained. In the past 35 years, monopoly houses have grown at a phenomenal rate multiplying their assets up to eight or nine times, exploiting legal loopholes in this Act and without attracting penal provisions of the MRTP Act. Now, one of the reasons is the ready implementation of the Act on the part of the Government. They have never allowed the MRTP Commission really to function. Sir, you will be surprised to know that although the Act gives powers to the Central Government to make reference under the Act to the Commission during 1986 — Mr. Mushran, please hear — not a single reference was made under section 21 of the Act relating to the expansion of undertakings, not a single reference was made under Section 22 of the Act which deals with the establishment of new undertakings, not a single reference was made by the Government to the Commission under Section 23 of the Act — merger/amalgamation and take over — and not a single reference was made under Section 27 of the Act relating to division of undertaking.' I am reading, Sir, the report of the Monopolies Commission itself. That shows the Government has stopped even paying lip service to the provisions of this Act, not even a pretended attempt to comply with the provisions of this important social legislation, this important economic legislation. So, what is the object of maintaining this Act? For whose benefit this Act is maintained? Sir, the MRTP Act provisions are there, but the Act is not being implemented. The sorry state of affairs appears, Sir, from the Report of the Sachar Commission. The Sachar Commission went in depth into this matter. It says:

> "Out of 600 effective applications received by the Central Government from Ist June 1970 to 31st December 1977

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under Sections 21, 22 and 23 only 59 cases were referred by the Government to the Commission. Of the 59 cases the applicant parties did not pursue 15 cases and withdrew their applications. As soon as the matter went to the Commission, they fled away. As on 31st March 1978 there were only two cases pending with the Commission under Section 21 and 22. Proceedings had not been taken in one because of the stay given by the court in the other case which was referred to in 1978."

The Commission has sent its report to the Government. The 618 effective cases consisted of Sections 21 and 354 —— all of them were dealt with by the Government of India, the Central Government never sent them to the Commission — under Section 22, 183 cases, under Section 23, 81 cases. Therefore, if the Central Government seizes the power, it is the political wing of the Government, they are dealing with this, what is the good of setting up this Commission? For whose benefit? Is it for public consumption only? So, the Sachar Commission has said:

> "Facts show that in the assets of the large business houses there has been a considerable increase right through all this period. The Monopolies Inquiry Commission had estimated that in 1963-64, the assets of non-government and non-banking companies amounted roughly to Rs. 5552.14 crores. The rate of increase for top 20 business houses which are registered under the MRTP Act shows that the value of assets has risen from Rs. 2430.61 crores in 1969 to Rs. 4465.17 crores in 1975; the percentage of increase of assets between 1972 and 1975 being 68.6."

Sir, the percentage of increase in the value of the assets of the top 20 large industrial business houses shows that the percentage increase of 69 has been to the extent of 25.9 per cent, 38.9 per cent, 61.3 per cent and 83.7 per cent in 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1975 respectively. Now, it is much worse. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to tell us why this *tamasha* of sometimes coming to this House with an amendment of this Act. What is this Amendment stating that hereby you are giving importance to indigenous technology? You are not allowing the Act to operate at all.

Sir, as I said that on the plea of modernisation, now it talks of linking up production with the needs of developing western markets, the concentration on exports have totally undermined the very important principle of self-reliance in this country. Whatever is being done, whatever industrial activity we are having in this country, is directed towards giving more and more opportunities, more and more advantages to the big business houses and the monopoly houses. We do not hear any longer any talk of "import substitution" which should be a very very important part of industrial policy and economic policy. The talk of import substitution has been totally jettisoned. Import has been liberalised now. Industrial growth and modernisation has not resulted increasing the living conditions of the people is very important. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether by their efforts, with all this modernisation, with all these benefits and conveniences given to the big business houses, the employment potential has increased in this country. You will have to answer this Mr. Minister because if there is more and more industrial activity, it should result into greater and greater employment opportunities. In fact, since 1951, however, the rate of growth of employment has remained stagnant in this country, for the last nearly 30/40 years. For whose benefit is this policy? Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister this point. I am sorry we cannot applaud the Minister and the Govern-

ment because on the plea of indigenous technological development they have brought this Bill. So fas as the performance of this Government is concerned with respect to monopoly houses and big business houses, it is a performance and policy of object surrender. They have special arrangement with these Business houses. They are getting the benefit from these business houses. This is the reality we find from the MRTP Commission functioned so far. The achievement of primary objective has been a big zero, nothing else is there so far as the application of this Act is concerned. Of course, we are not surprised. This is a Government which thrive on their friendship with the big business houses. We have seen how unlimited opportunities are being given to earn money by commission and how all the cohorts and loyal minions of this Government today are ruling the roost. In the name of reaching the 21st century, this country is fleeced and fleeced to the bones and marrows. We shall go on exposing this Government and I am sure that when the opportunity comes to the people of this country — I hope, sooner it comes the better — they will give their verdict and this Government will be thrown lock, stock and barrel.

[*Translation*]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjarpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have listened to the speech delivered by Shri Somnathji very attentively. He is a good orator. But it is regretted that the same has no relevance with reality. C.P.M. has vested interest in maintaining poverty in West Bengal. They will keep sustaining their cadre and remain in power so long poverty exists there. If the people of this country may ever listen to them, their dream will never be fulfilled. They talk about concentration of wealth. It is my submission that first of all generation of wealth should be allowed. If due to this controversy wealth is not generated, the question of its distribution will not arise. Then how the question of social justice will come up? You want to create such an atmosphere that wealth is not generated at all and if wealth is not generated than their party's rule will continue. I am in favour of generation of wealth, its equitable distribution and social justice. We should not create such an atmosphere in which wealth is not generated. My friends may be aware that there has been a revolution in the world of economics. After Keens, a revolution has come for the first time, on which Nobel prize of 1987 has been awarded. It has been mentioned in that theory that all the old doctrines have become obsolete. Only the country having advance technology will be on the forefront. Now one is not required to procure lot of raw-material, install a number of machines and employ large number of persons. Now the situation has changed. Now the country having advanced technology will make progress. The production of a small machine can be equal to production of 10,000 machines. Japan has demonstrated it. There is a book by Chairman of Soni Corporation *viz.* "Made in Japan" which is being discussed every where. It has bee depicted therein that how Japan has promoted advanced technology. The owner of the Soni Claims that when Japanese talked about small radio, tape recorders and other small electronic goods after second world war, people used to redicule as to how Japan will adopt modern electronic technology for their production. He further stated that once he visited U.S.A. and discussed with some one that he wanted to manufacture a small transistor and at this he was pushed out. He has explained these things very beautifully in his auto-biography. He further says that when he told Philips that he also wants to manufacture radio, the reply came, "what are you talking, your countrymen could never acquire that technology." He made up his mind that he will secure a respectable position for his country in the world and people of the whole world will talk about Japan. Now wherever you go in the

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world, you will find electronic goods made by Soni. He has promoted indigenous technology. He says that he cannot forget that day when he was pushed out in New York because he had talked about manufacturing a small radio. Today, these very Americans are begging for our technology so that they may also manufacture those things in their country. It is an unfortunate condition of our country that our industrialists and capitalists spend little on research and development. They only show in their books that they have spent on Research and development but actually they do not do so. If so much attention is paid on indigenous technology, then expenditure on research and development is natural. The Governmet should provide facilities atleast once. A minor amendment should also be made that M.R.T.P. will not be applicable to those industrialists who will instal industries based on indigenous technology in backward areas. We say that many complaints have been received about Pepsi Cola. Our people are facing tremendous hardships. Best quality of the mango is grown all over the country and is also available at throw-away prices and the balance is perished. You may instal here Pepsi Coal factory and mango juice factory and observe how fast development of that place could take place, where is the need for creating such a fear that economic development is not possible without the collaboration of foreign technology. The greatest need of the hour is economic development. Youth of this country has become restless, he wants all facilities in his life and all avenues of employment... As Shri Somnathji has just asked the Government to indicate how much employment has been generated. I myself want to know as to how much employment has been generated but you have created such a fear about M.R.T.P. that the people do not want to adopt new technology. Due to this, our industrial development is not taking place. Therefore, I demand that indigenous technology should be promoted to the maximum in this country and ensure rapid industrial growth. The raw material and human resources available in this country should be utilised to the maximum. I have visited Soviet Union and China. I have minutely observed liberalisation being introduced there. What are the Glassnost and Peristrika. These are nothing but steps towards liberalisation. Our Prime Minister has done a great job when he observed all the things in reality and took steps towards liberalisation. If we want to make economic development of the country, why is the opposition upset? Do you want to oppose every step just for the sake of opposition? Whatever Gorbochev does, is correct. Whatever happen in China, is also correct but economic development of country should not take place because this will result in concentration of power. Is it something worth while. If concentration of power take place somewhere, action may be taken against him, put him behind the bars, if he generates black money but wealth should be allowed to generate.

I want to say only one or two things more Shri Reddy has mentioned 1969, M.R.T.P. Act was enacted in our country in 1969. We have been learning from our mistakes only. The atmosphere that is prevalent today in the country is totally different from what it was in 1969. We see that the world is fast changing. Earlier those who were at daggers drawn, have now come very close to each other. Liberalisation is taking place everywhere in the world. In 1969, we had a belief that the more we go in for nationalisation, for setting up more public sector undertakings, the more our country will enjoy the fruits of socialism and it will set an example before the world that the public sector can do a lot in the third world. But our managers and officers betrayed us. Today, wherever raids are being conducted on the premises of officers of public sector undertakings, crores of rupees are being recovered from them. These officers grabbed all funds. Now a stage has come when people show a ten-

dency of hatred when somebody raises the question of nationalisation. Now what could be the justification for that? What way out is now left with us? Rather it will be advisable on our part to encourage the small scale, medium and the large scale industries instead of encouraging the public sector. It will generate wealth in the country which could be channelised for further distribution. You may please go through the economic history of Japan. Japan has made tremendous progress after the second world war. All the restrictions on industry were removed there. The industries were given full liberty to produce as much as they could and to sell their products by identifying the markets for them. When there will be no production, what will be sold? When production will take place, people will copy the new technology on a massive scale as it has been the practice in our country since long. For example, when somebody starts producing a commodity using the latest technology, other people will also start producing the same commodity within 5 to 6 months by going in for its technology. When commodities of the same kind will enter the market on a large scale, it is but natural that their prices will register a fall. If we want to compete in the export market, we must have the balancing machine as well as the latest technology. Is it not necessary for the same that we should check the import of foreign technology for a while. But I can go to the extent of saying that, you should import technology. If you want to increase your export, there is no harm if you import technology. But we must have to abandon the old things. We have to see in which direction the country is going and what the countrymen want. We will have to scrutinise the things afresh if at all we want to pay attention towards the aspirations of our people. This amendment is perfectly a suitable amendment in that context.

Finally, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that in the amendment he has brought forward, he should pay attention towards the backward areas in the country where people are very backward, where there is no employment for them where 90 percent of people live below the poverty line — and to set up the maximum number of industries in those areas based on the indigenous technology.

[*English*]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (Amendment) Bill, 1988. It has a limited purpose. Only three sections are being sought to be amended, Sections 21,22 and another I think, Section 67. But I wonder, the way some learned Members are bringing in extraneous things into the debate as if this is a debate on the Demands of the Industries Ministry. There is a reference to monopoly houses and so many things. Even today during the Question Hour, a lot of concern was expressed about the indigenous technology on the question of energy that we are not developing our technology or not depending on our own technology; were are not trying to promote indigenous technology here and we are trying to bring in or import technology from outside. There was a question like that and also there was concern expressed like that this morning.

This is a Bill which intends to liberalise this measure. This will be a liberalisation measure for utilisation of technology developed in the public or private sector or in our national laboratories for commercial purposes. We speak something sometimes and speak something else the next moment. I don't understand that. Mr. Somnath Chatterjee has said so many things. Are they themselves in West Bengal not trying to bring in monopoly houses to set up industries? They are trying that. They are trying hard and they are making frantic efforts... (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: Which are they?

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I need not name them. Let them deny. They are trying to bring in monopoly houses to set up industries. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: How can you ignore that? Yes, only in one case the Haldia Petro-chemical complex. He knows that. Because Central Government denied the joint venture in the petroleum sector. He knows it very well... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): In Haldia, they entered with Shri R.P. Goenka for a joint venture. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Yes, you tell the House... (*Interruptions*)

Do not mislead. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You continue.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Unless there is calm, how can I continue. There is a big drain of foreign exchange in importing technology. The previous speakers have dealt with that. I need not repeat. But we are a major industrial country in the world, admittedly. Nobody can deny that we are one among the ten industrially most advanced countries of the world. We have also a large number of scientists in our country. Our scientists abroad are doing wonders. But in our country since adequate facilities are not there, they are not in a position to produce such miracles. Our scientists as you know are getting Nobel Prizes outside the country while they devote themselves to scientific research.

Although we are a major industrial country, yet we should not ignore that we are not that developed in the matter of technology. Unless we make a lot of remarkable strides in the field of technology, we cannot help but import the technology by and large.

Therefore, sometime back there was an amendment in this House for earmarking certain percentage to be spent on R&D. Probably it was in the last year. There was an amendment to this effect in the relevant laws making every entrepreneur however big or small to spend about 5%—or something like that if I remember correctly—on Research and Development. In this background it is a welcome amendment.

The amendment that has been proposed in this Bill also is welcome. But at the same time I would like to request the Hon. Minister to keep in mind our national objective. Our national objective is growth with social justice. We have opted for mixed economy and that is also after careful consideration. A mixed economy admits of private sector and also monopoly houses. They will be there; but they will have to work under certain conditions. To create such constitutions the MRTPC has been conceived to serve as a watch-dog. Now the question is whether this MRTPC is serving that purpose. There is this question and we have our own reservations. Many people have their reservations and I also have my own reservations.

This MRTPC was launched to serve two purposes; firstly to ensure that the ownership and control of material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good and secondly the operation of the economic system does not result in concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment. This is very very important.

As you know our objective is growth with social justice. We have to fight out imbalances and the social injustice. At the same

time there is an allegation that our policy is such that all the areas of the country are not allowed to develop equitably. There are some imbalances and backward areas. So, it is very important and of paramount requirement that certain industries should be set up in the backward areas. That is why we give incentives to the big houses and industrial enterprises—small or big—to go to the backward areas. Actually it is in the national interest. If we do it in the national interest there is nothing wrong. At the same time it is painfully observed that the concentration of wealth is on the increase. I don't want to go into the figures. The dominating undertakings are defined as ones with assets between one crore and hundred crore rupees and 25% share in a particular product. There are 1663 companies which are assessed over Rs. 100 crores. As in the land sector we have concentration in the hands of 20-25 per cent farmers who control 80 per cent of the total agricultural cultivable land similarly in the field of industry 20 per cent of the big industrial houses control 80 per cent capital of the entire country.

This is a very bad sign and Government must control this. Government must come with a heavy hand to put down this trend firmly, otherwise the national objective as set by our leaders like Pandit Nehru and others wanted, namely, democratic socialism will get frustrated. I would request the hon. Minister that it is time for the Government to look at the situation afresh and come out with remedial measures.

14.53 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara): This amending Bill proposed to the MRTP Act is an amendment to Section 21 and 22 to exempt the industries on the basis of development of indigenous technology. I feel in the present context it will annul the purpose and spirit of the MRTP Act. The MRTP Act is in furtherance of a Constitutional guarantee contained in the Directive Principles that wealth should not be concentrated in certain hands and the society should not be held at ransom by capitalists. The earlier speaker said that this Act has been amended several times after 1969. All the amendments were for the purpose of helping the monopoly houses and industrial houses and this also, I think, is to help someone especially at this point of time. Indigenous technology, I would like to submit, at any cost is to be promoted. I am not against but unless you give definition, unless you give restrictions, unless you say who are the persons who are going to be benefited by this and unless you say what are the types of indigenous technology which you are going to promote through this amendment the very word 'indigenous technology' will be misused by the industrial houses. That is my fear. The technology which was prevailing in the recent times was a screw-driver technology. Things were being imported from outside and the workers was getting an opportunity to drive in a screw and assemble it which is construed as indigenous production. Because the worker is involved for driving the screw and calling it an indigenous technology will you exempt it on that ground? Today I find after computerisation this Government has changed the screw driver technology to labelling technology. The maximum effort that is being made is only to bring forth machinery from abroad. The technology, which is obsolete in those countries, is imported into this country and just labelled as 'Indian' brand and then supplied to the industrialists. Whether this 'label technology' and 'screw-driver technology' will be considered as an indigenous technology is my simple question to you.

Are those also going to be exempted? Then, who are going to be benefited out of such exemption? No doubt, the persons like Reliance, the persons like Tatas, and per-

[Sh. Thampan Thomas]
sons of other large industrial houses of this country will be benefited by that. What safeguards have you made in bringing this amendment to see that it is really meant for indigenous technology which we have to develop for the rest of the nation. That is not there.

Unfortunately I know in my State certain equipments were imported from Canada for the purpose of producing electricity from the hydel project. It is called Idukki Hydroelectric Project. This machinery was brought from Canada. About 25 years ago, they had abandoned that technology. But that was purchased over here. Some technology was added to that and it was said that it was indigenous technology. But now the fate of the Idukki Hydroelectric Project is there. Last year, four generators were not working. Power shortage was there and power-cut had to be imposed.

Similarly, it is happening in the case of many other things. In the telephone industries, you find that telephone machinery was imported. In Italy and other places, the new system has been developed. But the system which they have thrown out, has been imported. And you change somewhere here and there and put it as 'indigenous' technology. Now you say that that has to be protected by this amendment. If that is meant, I totally oppose it. There is nothing but to oppose in that case. The very purpose of the MRTP Act is not to have economic growth in certain hands. But what is the economic position today in this country? The position now is that 75 big houses are having 90 per cent of the wealth of this nation. Who else controls? They are big people. How they became rich? They became rich by taking the public money, accruing funds from the public and utilising it for their purpose. They take loans from the banks. Ten per cent or 20 per cent is the coverage money. They get the Reserve Bank money. With that, they build new industries and the subsidiaries. Finally, some fine morning, they will find it inconvenient to them and they put the workers out of the employment. Such things are going on but their wealth is not affected. Still they could accrue wealth and save it for their purpose and control the economy of this nation.

This has been brought to light that these big business houses are completely controlling the money and its marketing in this country. We could not do much in those things. These Acts are not effective for that purpose. Recent developments are that now we have landed into a position wherein these monopoly industries find their safeguards in Swiss Banks. We are not in a position to find out because the accounts are in Switzerland. How many monopoly industrialists have started their accounts there and accrue money there? It was reported sometime back that about Rs. 15,000 crores were in deposit in Swiss Banks which belonged to Indians. When such questions were raised earlier in this House, it was told that it belongs to non-resident Indian—Indians who are working abroad. Some break-up was given two years back in this House. When we really look into this, we find that the companies are being controlled by the non-resident Indians and those who purchase the shares in companies are from India. They are people like Swaraj Paul and others. How do they control the industry and money? Hindujas and such other industrialists, who are based in Switzerland, get the money from there. Mass wealth accrues to them. They drain it back to the Swiss Banks and keep it there. The MRTP Act in effect could not prevent it.

15.00 hrs.

Now, the exemption which are going to be given will give them further handle to take away the money, unless you also bring certain controls and checks in this regard. My

predecessor was speaking about. the changes in Russia, changes in China, the approach in China and so on. May I tell you one thing? If you compare an industrialists of India with an industrialist of America, you will find that the industrialist in India is much more privileged than the industrialist in America. Here, there are no checks and balances. If you have influence, if you can get the MRTP Act amended seven or eight times, then you can get anything.

Recently a case came to my notice. I hope Sir, You are also aware of this case. The Sympson Group of Companies announced one fine morning that they are going to sell imported Bedford trucks. These trucks were defective and there were no people to purchase them. But they published an advertisement stating that any person with a driving licence can come and buy the truck. This advertisement appeared throughout India. The State Bank of India advanced the money. Many innocent people pledged their houses and properties and raised money to buy these defective trucks. And they did find out that these trucks would not run.This was the result of screwdriver technology! Many of these poor people who purchased the trucks on the basis of he advertisement are in difficulty. I also know that a case in this regard is pending before the MRTP Commission. But I do not know what action is taken on this. They have given petitions to the Government, even to the Finance Minister and the Industry Minister. They approached the Government stating that they were cheated by the Bank in collusion with the Sympson Company. All these things have happened but nothing has happened to the company. Only those poor truck-drivers, who thought of earning a livelihood were cheated. What I want to say here is that in such cases even the MRTP Commission could not function effectively because of the restrictions placed on them. The Government must pull up the offenders. There should be certain rules and norms prescribed. The Ford Truck Drivers' Association approached me in Delhi to present a memorandum to you. Throughout India, they have formed an Association because though this thing had happened in Madras, the problem is nationwide. All this sort of things are happening throughout India and poor people are being cheated.

Either by taking money from the banks or collecting it from poor people, a section of the society are becoming rich and wealthy. On the whole, if you look at the problem you will find that these people comprise the top 15 per cent of the population. They already have some sort of livelihood. All the benefits of plan schemes etc. flow only towards them. And we are not able to do anything effectively to stop this concentration of wealth. Wealth is not only being concentrated in a few hands, but it is also being drained out of the country. With this amendment, in the name of indigenous technology, further wealth would be drained out of the country. There should be certain safeguards.

I am for developing indigenous technology. It must come up and it has to be built up. All support has to be given for that. But this should not be for the purpose of helping the type of industrialists who are exploiting the nation hitherto.

The second amendment appears very simple, that is the salary increase to be given from 1-1-1986...

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: It is only because of the Fourth Pay Commission.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: I am not opposing it. The only thing that I would like to tell you and request you is that this principle shall not only be applicable to the higher echelons of society.

Earlier when I took part in the discussion, the same criterion was made appli-

[Sh. Thampan Thomas]
cable to the Supreme Court Judges and the High Court Judges. Now it is for the Members of the MRTP Commission. I am not opposed to it. I say that it has to be given. But please remember the poor workers in the country.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: We gave them interim relief. They are also getting good scales.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: No, they are not given fully. The interim relief is going to be taken back.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: It will be adjusted in future.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: I was also there in the discussion. You were also there. I am pleading for the workers who work as Clerks—anybody in the office or anybody in the factory.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: We are interested more in the welfare of the workers than in the MRTP.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: The treatment should be equal; it shall not be confined only to the highly placed people like judges, Commission Members and all that. It should be made applicable to all the workers. I do not like that even the salary of the MPs should be increased in accordance with that principle from 1.1.1986. The arrears should also be paid according to the principle of the Fourth Pay commission; it should done not only in the case of MPs but for every one.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Are you going to accept the salary also?

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Surely. I want something more on that. The principle in second amendment proposed in your Bill should be made applicable to all sections of the people so that there is also no monopoly. The real principle of the MRTP Act should be made applicable in that case also. Thank you.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the M.R.T.P. (Amendment) Bill. The Bill, which has been brought forward by the Government to liberalise their policies, will be beneficial to all of us. In spite of that, the Government will have to scrutinise thoroughly to see that the monopoly houses do not govern the Government, rather the Government should govern the monopoly houses. The Government should exercise control over all the monopoly houses. Only then development of the country could be ensured.

There are no two opinions about it that the assets of the monopoly houses have been increasing constantly. But the Government will have to ensure that these assets are utilised for the development of the country and should not benefit any particular individual or any particular industrialist. The position in this regard should be reviewed from time to time. The Government will have to ensure that the monopoly houses work for the development of the country and in the interest of the working classes. The Government should make the optimum use of indigenous technology for country's development and there should not be any restrictive provision in this regard in the M.R.T.P. Act. The amendment Bill introduced by the Government appears to be most appropriate.

The Government should make all arrangements to set up the maximum number of industries based on indigenous technology in the backward areas of the country. This will give impetus to industrial growth in the country. A number of textile as well as other industries have become sick in the

country. A large number of industries have been identified. The Government should try to revive these industries by utilising indigenous technology and help these industries to be self reliant. To-day this thing is very essential. We had raised this point in the House this morning also. Whenever any monopoly house sets up an industry in India it gets good markets and the industry also runs well. As soon as some new product comes into the market to compete the product of the monopoly house, most of these big industrial houses divert the funds from that industry and set up some new industry. They start a new industry with a new name and hardly pay any attention to their old industrial units. As a result thereof the workers working in their old industrial units do not get anything and that unit also becomes sick. Almost all the monopoly houses in the country cause one industrial unit to be sick in this manner and go on setting up new industrie in its place. But the Government does not pay any attention to it. In this connection, I would like to cite an example. The M.M.C. company belongs to a very big industrialists in West Bengal. A new company of this concern called the Machinery Manufacturing Corporation is located in Calcutta in my constituency. Till such time this textile industry earned profit, it invested money in Hyderabad and Bombay and set up industries. Now when these industries have become sick, the M.M.C. company say that they will not revive these industries. Earlier, they managed these industries well and earned huge profits. The Financers who financed the Machinery Manufacturing Company now say that they will not finance the textile units. However, they are prepared to advance loan to the M.M.C. company if the company starts any new industry. They are not prepared to advance loan for the revival of the old sick industry. For example, an industrialist starts a big industry. When the industry becomes sick, the industrialist abandons it and goes in for setting up a new industry. These industrialists diversify one industry and go in for another industry and those who do not invest money in the sick industries, invest it in the new industries. Every institution advances loan to set up new industries. Even the I.D.B.I. gives loan for new industries. But what about the sick industries? None comes forward to help the sick industries. When industries become sick, the workers face difficulties. Nobody pays attention towards it and nobody invests funds in the sick industries. I, therefore, request the Government to take note of such industrialists and not allow them to do so. The workers are not solely responsible for the sickness of the industries. The industrialist is also equally responsible for that. If this will be the attitude that workers are solely responsible, how industrial growth will take place in the country. I have spoken to the hon. Minister a number of times in this regard and also held meetings with him. The hon. Minister had told me that joint meetings are also being held for this purpose. He further said that he has referred this case to the V.I.F.R. which is looking into the problems of sick industries. I would like to say in this connection that the V.I.F.R. invites big industrialist and they enter into an understanding with the industrialists. In this way, the decisions taken by them go against the workers' interests. No case can be made out against the big industrialists. The company takes recourse to liquidation by treating it a case of closure. Thereafter, the big industrialist starts getting loans from the financial institutions but the workers continue starve. Workers were shot dead by the police in Malda in West Bengal. Such incidents are taking place in my State. This is the outcome of your policy liberalisation.

I appreciate the move that there should be more and more industries in the country. More preference should be given to the backward classes and priority should be accorded to them in the 'No Industry Districts'. At the same time it has to be seen as to what is the policy of the Government in this regard. Big industrialists do not take up small

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]
industries. But the Government's policy stipulates that big industries should be merged with the sick industries. But nothing has been done so far in this direction. In this connection, the Government should hold talks with the monopoly houses to merge some sick industries with the healthy ones so that, at least some industries could be saved from becoming sick in future. Due to industrial sickness, the situation has deteriorated in West Bengal and workers are starving. It is not a matter of joke. At least two to three hundred workers who have nothing to eat have decided. Industrial growth will be possible only when there is development of working class. This is a very important issue for us. Many textile industries in our state are becoming sick and are facing closure. For this, Government should introduce indigenous technology and should tell the monopoly houses that though the Government is liberalising the policy yet they should also extend help to the Government. This will be a step for the better.

I only want to say that existing industries in the country should be modernised. They must possess modern equipment. It is true that Government has brought forward 8 amendments in the last 18 years but there are a very few field workers for this purpose. We say that God increases wealth, law protects it but the labourers curse their own fate and only shed tears. This is exactly what is happening in our country. Therefore, it will be better if the hon. Minister pays some attention to our suggestions on the proposed amendment.

Our colleagues of the C.P.M. were saying a short while ago that the Central Government is providing assistance to the big industrialists whereas the State Government is doing nothing of sort. The State Government is responsible for the conditions prevailing in our state. Some multinational industrialists like Chhabria and Dunlop company declared illegal lock-outs about two months back. Recently when these companies lifted the lock outs the management forced the workers to sign agreements which have not only caused loss to the workers but are also insulting to them. The State Government has no control over them. If there is no control over the industries, they will continue to function as they are. In the event of closure of the company, they will say that workers and labourers are responsible for it. The present state of affair will continue in the country if the industrials keep on accusing the workers and the Government remains satisfied merely by setting up big industries.

I believe that the amendment which the Government has brought forward in the MRTP Act for introducing indigenous technology will prove beneficial but the Government will have to pay attention to indigenous technology. Some sort of compulsory control should be exercised on sick industries and there should be a set of instructions under which closed industries could be revived.

[*English*]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): Mr. Chairman, I will say one or two things very briefly.

If Shri Indrajit Gupta wants to speak, then he will speak before me.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): Certainly I want to speak. I will hear you first.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Mr. Chairman, I want to know from the hon. Minister through you, as to how he is going to do by effecting this amendment. Section 22A has already empowered the Government. I want to know, though it has power, whether it will make Section 21 or Section 22 applicable or not.

By this amendment, it is proposed to amend Section 22A so as to empower the Central Government to issue certain directions in relation to proposals based totally on indigenously developed technology. Certainly it appears to be a liberalisation measure and I welcome it because it is only to develop indigenously developed technology in the public or private sectors in national laboratories for commercial purposes. This is a good measure.

I want to know from the hon. Minister as to how he will make sure that the particular technology has been developed in India indigenously; and how he will ensure that the benefit will not flow to the big industrial houses. At there was no check sometimes, they can say that it was indigenously developed. So there is a loophole and I feel the hon. Minister should convince us on this point. He cannot convince us by merely saying that it is a liberal attitude towards the industry. We must know how he will feel satisfied that a particular technology has been developed indigenously. So he will have to throw some light on the implementation of this measure. As far as this amendment is concerned, it is a vague one. He should make it clear. Even now he can come forward and give a broad assurance that very soon he will come before the House and convince us by introducing another measure whereby it will be ensured that it is the real indigenous technology and he will make sure that the benefits will not flow to already very big industrial houses in India.

Mr. Thampan Thomas has pointed out that you are giving some hike in salaries and other perks to Chairman and members. Of course, it is the recommendation of the Fourth Pay Commission. But giving it retrospective effect I do not feel convinced about it.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: The same clause applies to the Supreme Court and High Court judges. MRTP Chairman and members are the judges and not ordinary people.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: By virtue of their being judges they cannot claim retrospective effect.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: The recommendation of the Fourth Pay Commission has been applied to the High Court and Supreme Court judges from 1.1.1986. And after all it is a question of Rs. 19,000 only.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: But it will have a demonstrative effect. Anyway, it is a minor issue. The major issue is that this liberal attitude is only meant for the promotion of indigenous technology. If there are these loopholes, I agree with Mr. Thomas that the benefit will flow to the big industrial houses.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota): I welcome the M.R.T.P. (Amendment) Bill. In short, I would say that the way the MRTP houses have been favoured to push up the exports and the policy has been liberalised, it is indeed a welcome step. But this amendment will serve some purpose only if proper verifications are made every time concessions are given to the M.R.T.P. houses. Otherwise, the result will be that 20-22 M.R.T.P. houses presently existing in the country will avail of all the facilities and thereby increase their wealth by 10-20 times. I have to submit, in brief, that economic power should not be allowed to concentrate in some pockets. This is the eighth amendment Government has brought to the Act. Sometimes it has been done in the name of boosting exports or increasing production and the other time on some other ground and every time the amendment has given fresh benefits to monopoly houses. The amendment brought forward in 1984

[Sh. Shanti Dhariwal]
authorised even the smallest consumer to lodge a complaint before the M.R.T.P. Commission. But it is observed that though consumers make many complaints, yet they do not come before the commission. The Government will have to go into the reasons why the complaints did not reach the commission. The reason is that there is some flaw in the procedure somewhere. I make the complaint but I cannot dare to register my complaint with the commission. In such a situation, it becomes the duty of the Government to try to help the consumer to come forward to register the complaint before the commission whenever he has a genuine complaint or objection, so that he could get a redressal from the commission. The Government has already amended the MRTP Act 7-8 times and every time some concessions were given to monopoly houses, which has resulted in concentration of economic power with them. You have given concessions to some people for increasing exports, but in the process, they have increased their wealth 2-3 times. All the speakers who have expressed their views on this amendment, have expressed their doubts that the Government should be cautious lest the monopoly houses should increase their wealth and misuse the concessions proposed through this amendment in the name of indigenous technology.

Shri Soz raised a genuine points when he asked how the Government would verify whether the used technology is indigenous or not. These people will try to take undue advantage by importing technology from abroad and declaring it to be indigenous. Therefore, there is a need to verify every case seriously before according sanction. If this amendment is used by the Government properly and concessions are given after proper verification, then only it will prove effective to boost exports, give initiative to the backward areas and increase the pace of industrial production. Since it is the duty of the Government to provide social justice, I hope that efforts will be made to take these things into consideration and proper verification will be carried out in every case while according approval.

This is the point on which I want to give maximum emphasis. Having said this, I conclude my speech.

[*English*]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought you might have decided to pass me over. I shall confine myself to this Bill and not go into a general review of the working of the MRTP Act over the last few years, though that is a very tempting subject. My friend Mr. Somnath Chatterjee has discussed that at some length and I agree with most of what he said.

Government has enacted this piece of legislation as though it is meant to restrict the growth of monopolists, That is why it is called MRTP Act—Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act. But the experience shows that actually it is just the opposite. In spite of this Act, there is tremendous growth in the power of the monopoly houses, in the concentration of wealth, and in the political clout that these big business houses enjoy in the life of the country. I would like to ask the Minister one question. On the face of it, this Bill might appear to be quite innocuous, namely that it will give a boost to indigenous technology. What is wrong with this? It is very good. But I would like to ask one question whether the Government has ever thought of acquiring any legislative powers to ensure that these MRTP companies do not go in for imported technology when that technology is already available within the country.

Have you ever thought of that? For example, just now there is a case pending, I am sure the Minister knows about it, where

the Tatas, the Tata Iron and Steel Company proposed, or already carried it out, I don't know, to import a second-hand blast furnace costing about Rs. 150 crores, of which Rs. 28 crores is the foreign exchange component, although the Heavy Engineering Corporation which is a prestigious public sector undertaking in our country is already capable of manufacturing that type of blast furnace and has already supplied them to the Vizag plant and to the Bhilai plant. Why Tatas should be allowed to go in for this second-hand foreign plant where, I believe that even the date of the manufacture of that plant is not known? It is not a new thing, it is an old plant. But they are prepared to bring that spending foreign exchange and paying Rs. 150 crores for it rather than availing of the indigenously developed and manufactured blast furnace which is available with the Heavy Engineering Corporation. So, the question of self-reliance and import substitution and all these things which my friend talked about really lost all relevance now. Moreover, I would like to know incidentally whether the Tata's proposal was ever made known, whether their requirements were ever made known to the Heavy Engineering Corporation. I can understand if the Heavy Engineering Corporation says that 'we can't supply you' or something like that. We were told they were never consulted, even the Directorate of Public Enterprises was never consulted and it is the Steel Ministry or the Steel Department and the Director General of Technical Development (DGTD) which is under the hon. Minister's care who has pushed this proposal, approved it, recommended it and pushed it. So, what is the point in setting up all these costly plants in our country for manufacturing capital equipment if you are going to allow these MRTP Companies to ignore them and to import from outside even second-hand stuff which I am sure is not very good at a huge cost of foreign exchange?

As far as the technology developed in India is concerned, this amendment of Section 22A seeks to insert this clause which reads as follows:

> "... which is based totally on technology developed in India."

I wish he had said after "India", "totally developed in India in public sector laboratories and research institutes." That is not stated here. This technology developed in India may be developed not only by public sector laboratories or by our publicly funded research institutes, there can be something which is sought to be shown as being developed in the in-house R&D laboratories of private companies. Admittedly, they don't spend very much on R&D in this country. But there are these associates and subsidiaries and branches of multi-national companies who are operating in our country and one example that comes to my mind is the Hindustan Lever. The original Unilever whose Headquarters are in England is known to be a very powerful multinational company, its branch operates in India, the Hindustan Lever, they claim to have an R&D laboratory in Bombay where they are supposed to be developing all sorts of technologies. But all those technologies—can they be called purely indigenous, Indian? Is there no foreign interest involved in that when there is a branch of the multinational company? So, I think it would have been better if clause 2(a) is read like this. This should be, "which is based totally on technology developed in India in public sector laboratories and research institutes". Then it would have some meaning. We know that many of these laboratories are also languishing for want of people to put their new designs and development to commercial use. Some years ago, I had the privilege of serving as a Member of the Committee which went into the working of the CSIR which was presided over by Mr. Justice Sarkar and we had gone into the working of all the CSIR laboratories in India. We found one of the main difficulties they

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were facing was—not that they had not done any work, they have developed many things indigenously—but the industrial sector or the commercial sector was very very tardy in taking these things and applying them to commercial and industrial use. A large body of young scientists, committed scientists are working in these laboratories who feel thoroughly frustrated and disappointed because their work is not being encouraged by commercial application.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: I want to say one thing. If you kindly see the statement of object and reasons, you will find that it is proposed to amend this Section 22A to empower the Central Government also to issue directions in relation to proposals based totally on indigenously developed technology. This will be a liberalisation measure for the utilisation of technology, developed in public or private sector or in national laboratories for commercial purposes.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I am not concerned with your Statement of Objects and Reasons. I am concerned with the Bill.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: This statement is enclosed with the Bill.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: But what prevents you from putting it in the Bill, when making your intention beyond all questions.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Our intentions are good.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: It will not serve the purpose unless you put it in the Bill.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: My point is that MRTP companies which are connected or which have collaboration agreement with foreign multi-national corporations operating in India can conceal imported technology as indigenously developed in their own in-house R&D establishments. How do you ensure that actually indigenous technology which requires encouragement, which is being developed in your public sector laboratories and institutes are going to benefit from this Bill? There is nothing to guarantee or ensuring it at all. Certainly the MRTP companies should not acquire any monopoly over the use of publicly funded R&D technologies. Suppose some company wants to use this technology, they should not be in a position to monopolise it. As my friend, Mr. Chatterjee was saying, there are non-monopoly companies, so many of them in this country, a majority of them, even medium scale industry, even small scale industries can benefit from the use of these technologies which are indigenously developed. But there is no legislation or any move being taken by the Government to give those industries any incentives to use this indigenous technology. It is only the monopolies who have been brought out to be offered incentives.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: For other industries, there is no need for any permission. Since these industries are under MRPT, we are amending this Act.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I am not talking about permission. I am talking about incentive. Permission, of course, is not required. The point is, whether you want to give any positive incentive to the non-monopoly companies. Apparently, you do not.

Another question is, it is a very difficult, practical question. There may be a company which is producing a number of products and the company is one but it has many products. It has diversified range of products. In one particular product, it may use either imported technology or indigenous technology.

It may not require it for some of its other

products. You had not made clear here whether that company comes under the benefit of this Amendment or not. It may not use that technology for all its products. It may use it for one product out of 15 products. Then, does it mean that that particular company will benefit from this, that this restriction will not apply to it any more this Act? It is not made clear.

How to ensure that a particular technology is one hundred per cent Indian, indigenously developed and within Indian control—I mean the technology is developed within Indian control? Patented technologies are being imported from abroad through the process of technical collaboration with many MRTP companies and the Government has no means of verifying or monitoring or ensuring that these are not passed off as totally indigenous. For this purpose, I would suggest that their must be an adequate monitoring or verification machinery and that should be under the Directorate of Scientific and Industrial Research. Some sort of a Board or something should be set up under the Directorate of Scientific and Industrial Research. My suggestion is that Board should also include in it some eminent, independent scientists who are not necessarily Government scientists but who are known to be eminent people in a particular discipline or particular field.

It seems that Government's main concern is to provide more and more incentives for the growth of the monopoliees. That is the part of a liberalisation policy which has been initiated by our Prime Minister. Cabinet Secretary Mr. Deshmukh, in a statement made only a few days ago, has said that "our commitment to open up the economy is unequivocal"—those words I am quoting—he was speaking, of course, where a number of American businessmen were also present—"and the process of liberalisation will be taken to its logical end." That is what the Cabinet Secretary has said. I must take his words with due weight. This means that there is at present an outlook of unrestricted and unchecked so called liberalisation. That is, all restrictions are to be removed. All these big companies, monopoly houses, are both foreign MNCs and MRTP companies. As Shri Somnath Chatterjee has pointed out, clearances are being given by the Government without referring to the Commission. This has been stated by the Commission itself in its report. You can say, as somebody said here, that the Commission has got the power *suo motu*, if it wants, to go into any case. But that is not the same thing. The point is it does not show any concern on the part of the Government to get a particular application at least gone into, verified and cleared by the Commission which has been setup for this purpose under the Act.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: It is a quasi-judicial body.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: So, what has it to do with it?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: It can act independently.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Anyway, the Directive Principles of our Constitution are being violated right and left. Concentration of economic power and wealth is being allowed to go unchecked under this MRTP The Directive Principle should be removed. The MRTP Act itself has become meaningless. A few days ago, there was a report—I do not know whether it is correct or not—that one of the panels of the Planning Commission has recommended in the 8th Five Year Plan that this MRTP Act should be scrapped. It is going in that direction. It is no longer any use keeping it as a restrictive, controlling or regulatory measure. Actually, FICCI and the Associated Chambers of Commerce, as you know very well, their spokesmen, their Chairmen and their Presidents, are compaigning openly in the press every day

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through their statements and speeches directed against this MRTP saying that it should be further liberalised, its scope should be further restricted. They are saying that they do not want the Commission. They want an absolutely unchecked and untrammelled path on which they can go ahead. A few days ago, at some seminar organised by FICCI, I think the hon. Minister himself was there. The subject which they were discussing was "Liberalisation the next step." I do not know what exactly the Minister said there. I do not go by the Press reports except that he is reported to have told them that the Power Sector is going to be opened up to the private houses. In the name of liberalisation it may mean so. But he did say one thing which is reported in the Press that the philosophy of liberalisation will mean a steep rise in our import bill. It will mean that we have to import more capital equipment from abroad; more raw-materials which go into the products which are meant eventually for export—whether they are exported or not; components and technology at prices which are rising all the time. The world prices are not within our control. So, if liberalisation is going to mean more and more import of these things, the cost is going to go up further while the rupee is depreciating all the time against the foreign currency. You know very well to what extent the rupee has depreciated against the foreign currencies. So, this means that in order to help these monopoly houses through the liberalisation policy, the Government is even prepared to allow this trade deficit that we are suffering from, to become more acute because exports are not going to grow to the extent imports are growing. Everyday, the Ministers are complaining and wailing that exports are not picking up as they should, in spite of so many incentives being given to these people. Whereas, liberalisation of imports means that the gap between imports and exports value will increase, trade deficit will grow. But, anyway, this is the philosophy which the Government is pursuing.

Sir, this latest amendment, I am afraid, can only be regarded as a link, one more link in a chain—there is a dangerous chain, I should say—of mortgaging the economy, at least the industrial economy to these houses. Only a few days ago, in reply to a question here, the hon. Minister himself was complaining—it is a question regarding prices of tyres—and he himself said here that there are five or six tyre manufacturers who have formed a kind of group or cartel and they are dictating everything; they are dictating the prices and they are raising the prices.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): They have no control over that.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: They are dictating everything. Wen people ask questions here the Minister says that the Government have no control over them and they cannot do anything and, they have decided to import from outside. This is the only way they thought that they can cope with these people. So, if the monopolies grow the way they are growing, the way they are encouraged to grow, and you think that the remedy is to encourage more and more imports; then you will be caught in the other dilemma which is that the trade deficit will increase much more and many industries which are indigenous in our country are going to be harmed by; they are already being harmed. Even the capital equipment industries are feeling. I mean, the managements are complaining that all these plants were set up to make machine building and manufacturing capital equipment so that we can be self-reliant and stand on our own feet but now by liberalising the whole policy, you are allowing any Tom, Dick and Harry to import all these machines and capital equipments from, abroad. What is going to happen to the Public Sector Plants?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: We are not allowing the import of any machinery which

is indigenously available here. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The Tatas are allowed. Even second hand plants are allowed to be imported by Tatas. The HEC can supply them.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Without verification, I cannot say about that. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, we cannot consider this amending Bill to be an innocuous and harmless thing. It is one more link in the whole chain of strengthening the monopoly and their grip on the economy. Therefore, I totally oppose this Bill. (*Interruptions*)

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): Sir, what I am observing in the last four years is that this Government is having this type of economy which is working for a few big houses in this country. Giving Concessions in the income-tax going in for export-orientation by allowing lots of imports and all the amendments done to the MRTP Act is nothing but that you are just bothered about 20 or 30 houses of this country, irrespective of what they do. I am afraid, when yesterday I talked something that this Government is in the pockets of big houses, my friends did not like it. When you talk about the growth of this country, the industrial growth, you talk about the growth of 20 or 30 houses. I would like to know whether these big people are behaving properly and whether that growth is related to the average man of this country whose lot is to be improved. The Hon. Minister may say that it is out of question. But has all this growth of multi-nationals anything to do with the employment that is generated in this country? There is no proper proportion. On the contrary, in the big houses, employment remains stagnate or it goes down by one or two per cent. The petrochemical unit, which is a big multi-national unit of Reliance, which is coming up at Gujarat is of Rs. 1200 crores. But the employment potential is only 500. You take Thapper's unit which is coming in Goa. The employment potential is only 300. You are just giving these big people a lot of concessions in all the aspects which are being discussed in this House and gradually leaving this country in the hands of a few people and thereby increasing the black-money by about Rs. 40,000 crores.

In the Congress session, I think, Mr. Sathe had said that every year in this country about Rs. 40,000 of black money is being generated. All these big houses are the major culprits for creating such a huge amount of black money in this country.

Coming to certain points relating to this Bill, you have given incentives to all these people. But if the indigenous technology is developed, then from the depreciation allowance you will get only 50 per cent. There is a limit of Rs. 100 crores and we are going to raise it.

Regarding the export orientation, number of statements have been made during the last Budget and in the name of exports, a lot of import is allowed. They have signed a lot of undertakings. I want a categorical reply from this Government. More than hundreds of these big bosses have not fulfilled their export orientation programme. They have taken the loans and they have fulfilled only their import obligation. It is very dangerous. Your deficit is increasing. Openly they are taking this country to a calamity in spite of the concessions that you have been giving to them everybody. There is no control over these big houses. The Sachar Committee which was appointed to study the growth of these monopoly houses, has shown that between 1970-77, 618 applications for amalgamation and other transactions were received by the Government, but only 593 were sent to this Committee. More

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than 500 applications were dealt with directly by the Government. These big houses are not coming to you. They are not going to the Monopolies Commission. They are not going to the Minister. They straightway go to top people and deal with them and get their licences. Whatever dealing is done there, it comes to this public House to just discuss and talk.

In your Annual Report of last year, what is the R & D development in this country?

The indigenous development in this country is totally negative. The indigenous research and development is totally negative.

I have seen all these big houses. Except in the Hindustan Lever, everywhere you are importing everything. I want to ask a categorical question as to which technology do you encourage and which is helpful? They are selling it in the scrap. Where is your indigenous technology and the need for developing it? What happened to your procedures and planning for indigenous technology development? Your research effort is totally negative. This Government is absolutely having no planning and therefore in the name of indigenous technology you get 99% hired technology manipulated by the big houses. Again without monopoly commission they will be given the licences. You are opening the window for these big houses to create blackmoney, to spoil the Indian economy. Therefore I totally oppose tooth and nail this Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NARAIN SINGH (Bhiwani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the face of it, the amendment to M.R.T.P. Act appears to be good but it does not fulfil the objective of the Principal Act. Therefore, everybody has raised doubts whether this amendment will yield any benefit, because no restrictions were imposed on monopoly houses after the principal Act was passed. It is a debatable question and you can go into it. But this much is very clear that there are 25-26 big houses like Tatas, Birlas, Singhanias and Reliance all of whom are big industrialists. Ever since this Act was passed, its objective has not been realised. The condition of the poor has not changed. No industry has been set up in the backward area. But at the same time, the imports are increasing. In this way, the position of our balance of trade is increasing by becoming unfavourable. We should stop imports in the interest of trade so that their prices are kept in check and the poor could get some benefits. It is apparent that M.R.T.P. Commission has no restriction on the big houses under its control and permission for imports is granted without its approval. These big houses exploit the people by using foreign technology in the name of indigenous technology and, thus, entire wealth of the country has concentrated in their hands. The country is being harmed in this way. The commission should be given more powers for the implementation of this amendment. There are independent scientists in India who can distinguish between indigenous technology, imported technology or foreign technology. Our country has produced distinguished scientists, some of whom have won even the Nobel prize. A board should be constituted by properly selecting such scientists who should conduct proper verification whether a particular technology is imported or not.

Stress should be laid on proper implementation, then only the amendment would be meaningful. Otherwise, it will be of no use.

15.59 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: RECENT PROVINCIAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN THE NORTH-EASTERN PROVINCE OF SRI LANKA

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): Sir, I rise to apprise the House of recent developments in Sri Lanka which have a bearing on the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. At the core of this agreement are the provisions for setting up of Provincial Councils with sufficient legislative and executive powers to give the Tamils of Sri Lanka greater autonomy in the running of their own affairs. Constitutional amendments and legislation to give effect to these provisions were passed by the Sri Lankan Parliament several months ago and Provincial Councils were set up and elections held in all provinces of Sri Lanka except the North and the East. It is ironic, indeed, that although these provisions were enacted primarily to meet the demands of the Tamil people of Sri Lanka, the obduracy and intransigence of extremist elements have denied to them the benefits of these provisions when all other areas of Sri Lanka were enjoying these benefits.

The Central point of LTTE's intransigance was their insistence that we recognise their right to set themselves up as the sole representatives of the Tamils. They claimed the right to ban any other Tamil party or group that they did not approve of and they claimed the right to indulge in any amount of violence against those who did not follow their dictates. We repeatedly made attempts to persuade them to give up these unilateral demands and join the democratic process. But all these attempts failed and the electoral process had to be proceeded with.

Before the elections the President of Sri Lanka had announced several measures which went a long way towards meeting the remaining demands of the Tamils, including the notification of the merger and release of the remaining political prisoners who supported the Agreement. The LTTE, its supporters and even some of our friends warned us against holding elections without LTTE's approval. But we had firm indications from the ground level that the Tamil people wanted peace, they wanted an and to the violence and strife and they wanted a chance to exercise their democratic rights.

Accordingly, the electoral process was initiated on 12th September. Even at this last stage we tried our best to invite the LTTE to join the process. We declared a unilateral cease-fire from September 15 which, with an extension, lasted a total of 10 days. Though we repeatedly urged the LTTE to take advantage of this opportunity, and though the citizens of the Northern and Eastern Provinces tried their best to persuade them, the LTTE persisted in their by now familiar, obduracy and intransigence.

It had been widely predicted that no Tamil candidates would have the courage to come forward and contest the elections. But this was proved wrong and enough candidates came forward for every single seat in the North Eastern Province. The electoral alliance of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) and the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF) was the only group to file nominations in the Northern Province and were elected unopposed. In the Eastern Province there was a contest between the Tamil parties, the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress and the United National Party. The electoral Process was completed on November 19th and I am glad to report to the House that it was completed without any violence and with an overwhelming voter turnout.

I would like to share with the House the

[Sh. P.V. Narasimha Rao]

details that have become available about the voting patterns and the results. An average of nearly 63% of the registered voters throughout the Eastern Province cast their franchise — one of the highest turnouts in the Provincial Council elections in Sri Lanka. This percentage went up as high as over 79% in the predominantly Tamil district of Batticaloa while it was about 53% in Trincomalse and 55% in Amparai. Reports indicate that many of the Sinhala voters stayed away due to threats from the JVP. If provision is made for this fact, it would appear that an overwhelmingly high proportion of the Tamil population — perhaps as high as 80-90% — ignored the threats and appeals of the LTTE and voted in favour of peace and democracy. Another manner in which voter in Sri Lanka have traditionally expressed their disapproval has been to spoil their ballots. But the average of invalid votes throughout the Province has been below 2% and in the predominantly Tamil district of Batticaloa it was only 1.6%. These elections were observed by representatives of the Indian, Sri Lankan and international media and have bee widely reported. Members will agree that the unanimous verdict is that the elections were peaceful, they were completely free and fair and above all they were an overwhelming success. The combined result of the elections is that in the North-Eastern Province, after taking into account the two bonus seats, the Tamil parties (EPRLF and ENDLF) have together got 55 out of a total of 73 seats, giving them a three-fourths majority. The Sri Lankan Muslim Congress has 17 and the UNP has 1 seat.

The results perhaps give us a clue to why the LTTE has consistently refused to submit to a popular verdict and preferred to seek their objectives by force of the gun. The Tamils have also signalled that they are in favour of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement, that they would like to give it a try and that they want an end to violence and strife. I would once again call upon the LTTE to heed the call of the people they claim to represent and to give up violence which has been causing untold suffering to the Tamil people.

Sir, I would like to commend the excellent security arrangement made by the IPKF which foiled all attempts by the LTTE to intimidate the candidates, to terrorise the voters and disrupt the elections. While ensuring security, their arrangements also ensured a completely free and fair election. I would also like to place on record our appreciation for the services of many Sri Lankan volunteers who braved threats to their personal security by volunteering to serve as election officers and making the elections possible. I am sure that this House would like to join me in congratulating the Tamil parties, specially the EPRLF and the ENDLF, who have shown tremendous courage and foresight in standing up for peace and democracy. Last, but perhaps most important, we should extend our felicitations to the Tamil people of Sri Lanka who are the real heroes of these elections.

16.05 hrs.

MONOPOLIES AND RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES (AMENDMENT) Bill—*CONTD.*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the hon. Minister may reply.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): Sir, I have carefully listened to the views expressed by the hon. Members. Some Members have pointed out that this Act was passed in 1969. It was already amended 7-8 times. We amended our Constitution also so many times. According to the changing times, we have to amend the Act to encourage industrial relations in this country and to give incentives to

the industrialists. Starting from 1969, we are now in 1988. There are a lot of changes. A lot of high-technology industries are coming up. We are opening many new industrial areas.

There was a criticism from the Members about the liberalisation. You know very well that in no industry district area and in backward areas, we allowed the business houses coming under the MRTP Act, to start their industries. It is an incentive. At present, the industries are in metropolitan towns and big towns. These must go to the nook and corner of the country and the rural areas. That's why we gave the incentives.

Some Members from the Opposition expressed their doubts about this amendment that we were doing some favours to the MRTP houses. I am sorry to say that is not the intention of the Government. It is with a good intention that we have brought this.

You know very well that we have got 225 public undertakings. They have got their own R&D houses and laboratories. They are developing good and latest technologies as compared to foreign technologies. Like that, the monopoly houses have also got their own R&D houses. That's why instead of depending on the imports of technology from abroad, this amendment has been placed before you for your consideration to encourage these business houses to develop indigenous technology and to give incentives for that purpose only.

Many Members have not confined themselves to this amendment alone. They have discussed the whole MRTP Act. They criticised the Government in various areas.

I am not going to reply to all those questions. I will confine myself only to this amendment. It has been said that the large industrial houses would take undue advantage of the facilities not only for increasing their academic power in the country but may adopt ways and means to bring in foreign technology under the garb of translating the indigenous development of technology for commercial production. We will take care of it.

Mr. Indrajit Gupta suggested the appointment of a high-level board. I have taken note of it. Shri Madhav Reddy also raised some points. The Directive Principles of the State Policy are embodied in the Constitution of India. He stated that the Government appears to be averse to remove social injustice.

I am sorry to say that in Andhra Pradesh, they handed over the Nissan Allwyn to an MRTP Company, Mahindra and Mahindra.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: You were a party to that! That had your consent and approval.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: No, no. You do not know that facts. I will tell you the secret later. Mr. Acharia also referred to various earlier amendments of the Act. But as I said, if you want to industrialise this country, you have to bring in more amendments to the present Act. The recently announced liberalisation in only for the dispersal of industries to various parts of the country. Upto Rs. 50 crores, today any person can establish an industry with indigenous machinery without any licence in any part of the country. I may tell you that this is a revolutionary step.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: It is good for Mr. Acharia. This will bring the revolution....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: You must take certain things seriously. These are all good steps. Just because you are sitting in the opposition, you should not criticise every thing. Mr. Indrajit Gupta pointed out that this liberalisation should be carefully monitored. That was a good suggestion and I did take note of it. Where is the question of differences when it comes to the good of the nation? You are also interested in the nation and I am also interested in the development of our nation.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Then you should not allow the import of... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Let us not discuss it again. I told that I would find out about that and let you know.

While I do not propose to discuss each and every amendment that has been approved by the Parliament in the past, I would like to make it clear that would be wrong to say that all of them have been directed towards liberalisation. The amendments were brought about to make the provisions of the Act more effective.

Shri Shantaram Naik discussed the previous amendments in some detail. Shri Madhave Reddi also mentioned about the proposed amendments to Section 22A being likely to be misused by the MRTP companies. We will take care of this, before giving the notification. Before giving notification, as suggested by Shri Indrajit Gupta, we will verify and then and then only we will allow them. I have already said in my opening remarks that Section 22A empowers the Government to impose terms and conditions while issuing the notification granting the exemption proposed. I can assure the hon. members that we shall take all precautions to ensure that misuse or abuse of the kind suggested by Shri Indrajit Gupta and Shri Madhav Reddi does not take place.

Shri Mohanty while supporting the amendments, has expressed certain doubts whether we are going to increase it from Rs. 100 crores to Rs. 200 crores. There is no scope of that.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I have a doubt whether you are going to abolish the Act. I doubt whether in the Eighth Five Year Plan, the MRTP Act will be kept at all!

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: How can I say anything on that? You have mentioned some statements of the Planning Commission and the Cabinet Secretariat. I cannot say anything on that. How can I respond?

DR. DATTA SAMANT: All the big bosses have created a lobby and you are acting only in their interest...

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: We are nationalist. We are interested in the development of this country. We are not going to sell the country to others. Do not doubt our patriotism. We are not doubting the patriotism of Shri Indrajit Gupta.

SHRI H.A. DORA: Do you doubt my patriotism then?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: I do not doubt your patriotism either.

I am not doubting your patriotism. I would like to point out that section 29 of the M.R.T.P. Act provides that statutory hearing has to be given and if anyone objects to a proposal, he is given a chance to participate in this statutory hearing, and as such, if their objections are valid, they are taken into consideration.

Mr. Somnath Chatterjee is not here. But he is an eminent lawyer. I am a layman; I am not a lawyer. But he speaks on any subject with the same language.

Shri Indrajit Gupta spoke about MRTP companies not being permitted to import technology if it is already available in India. As he is aware, clearances under the MRTP Act are given after taking into account all aspects that have to be considered. If it is indigenously manufactured, we are not allowing anybody to import any equipment.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You are allowing for toilet soap, biscuit and everything. Are they not being made in this country with our own technology? Your multinational companies are being allowed to do it.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: No. They are manufacturing in India itself. Even the Minister of Commerce or anybody without the permission of the DGTD cannot import anything. About proper verification that the technology has been developed indigenously,

Shri Gupta made a suggestion for setting up a Board. I have made a note of this suggestion.

Shri Gupta expressed an apprehension that MRTP companies may monopolise the national laboratories. I do not think this amendment will lead to such a situation.

Dr. Datta Samant always criticises the government. He does not pay any compliments to the government even when the government brings forward any good amendment. This is his second habit. Dr. Datta Samant spoke about there being nil or negative growth of indigenous R&D. While I do not have the figures for this what I do know is that the proposed amendment is likely to lead to more research and development taking place in the country. I have got experience. If he wants I will show him our own R&D and research laboratories which are working very well. They are developing new technology; they are in the public sector. They are very good R&D Laboratories. If you go to Baroda which is near to Bombay you will find our IPCL; how are they indigenously developing petro-chemical things. You please see them and then write a letter to me.

I do not want to provoke the members unnecessarily because this amendment is a small one. I have introduced this Bill before the House with good intentions and we would take care of the implementation and certainly we will see that this is not abused or misused by those monopoly houses. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will now take up Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted

16.21 hrs.

COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY (AMENDMENT) Bill

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): On behalf of S. Buta Singh I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, be taken into consideration."

I rise to move that the Commissions of

[Sh. Santosh Mohan Dev]

Inquiry (Amendment) Bill, 1988, a Bill further to amend the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 be taken into consideration.

The Bill seeks to make two changes in the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

Firstly, a specific provision is being inserted in the Act itself to enable a Commission of Inquiry to appoint assessors and make payment of travelling and daily allowance to them and to the other witnesses summoned to give evidence before the Commission. Hitherto, such matters have been regulated under the Commissions of Inquiry (Central) Rules, 1972.

Secondly, the existing procedure for taking cognizance of the offence relating to acts calculated to bring a Commission of Inquiry or any member thereof into disrepute is being streamlined.

At present, Rule 5(6) of the Commissions of Inquiry (Central) Rules, 1972 provides that travelling and other expenses, as the Commission may deem reasonable, shall be paid to a person who is summoned to assist the Commission at the stage of preliminary investigation or to give evidence or to produce documents before a Commission. Rules 6(a) and 6(d) of the Commissions of Inquiry Rules, 1972 provide that the Central Government or, with the previous approval of the Central Government, a commission may appoint assessors to assist and advise the Commission in any matter connected with its inquiry, and may determine the travelling allowance, daily allowance and other incidental expenses that may be paid to assessors.

The Committee on Subordinate Legislation (Sixth Lok Sabha) in its ninth report recommended that the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, should be amended to make a specific provision in the Act itself for appointment of assessers and payment of travelling allowance and daily allowance to the witnesses and assessors. As the recommendation of the Committee remained under consideration of the Government, the Committee in its nineteenth report again recommended that the amendment of the Act be expedited. The Government accepted the recommendation of the Committee and the Lok Sabha Secretariat were informed that the Government had decided to initiate amendment of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 for the purpose. Clause 2 of the Bill seeks to insert a new Section 5B in the Act to authorise the Commission to appoint assessors and pay TA and DA to them. Clause 4 of the Bill seeks to confer on the appropriate Government power the make rules relating to payment of TA and other expenses payable to assessors and witnesses.

The need has been felt to streamline the procedure for punishment of persons doing acts calculated to bring a Commission of Inquiry or any other member thereof into disrepute. Under the procedure specified in section 10A of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure will apply and the Commission will forward its complaint to the Magistrate who will commit the person to a court of sessions for trial; further, no prosecution can be launched except with the previous sanction of the Central Government, or the State Government, as the case may be. It is proposed to change this procedure. Clause 3 of the Bill seeks to amend section 10A of the Act to provide that an offence under this section is triable by the High Court directly, by ordinary procedure prescribed in the Code of Criminal Procedure, on a report of the Commission of Inquiry concerned without committal proceedings, and that the personal attendance of the members of the Commission of Inquiry as complainants will not be necessary.

Sir, I commend this Bill for the consideration of this august House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, be taken into consideration".

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, this Bill has been introduced for the purpose of giving effect to the recommendations of the Committees on Subordinate Legislation of both the Houses of Parliament. Clauses 2 and 4, which were previously provided under the Rules have now been made as a part of the Act itself. Therefore, there can be no objection so far as these two Clauses are concerned. They are based on the recommendations made by the Committees on Subordinate Legislation. They are innocuous Clauses.

But Clause 3 is the important clause. In the Statement of Objects, it has not been made clear to why we are substituting the existing provision with the present provision and how it is going to better the existing procedure so far as the contempt of the Presiding Officers of a commission is concerned. Obviously Clause 3 seems to have been inspired by the Thakkar-Natarajan Report on Fairfax. In Chapter VI of the Report, the two Judges of the Supreme Court have introduced a new idea, that is, the need for protection of members of the Judiciary, who are called upon to undertake on behalf of the judicial institution the onerous task of the commissions constituted under the Enquiries Act of 1962. Everybody knows that these two learned judges of the Supreme Court were very seriously criticised and the Commission also issued some notices to some important dailies, as to why action should not be taken against them under Section 10A of the Act. But fortunately no action was initiated by the public prosecutor as required under Section 10A(2) against any one of the dailies.

I had myself an occasion to give a rely to a notice issued by the Thakkar Natarajan Commission to one of the dailies in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The learned Judges said, in Chapter VI of the Report that it would be difficult for the Supreme Court Judges or the High Court Judges to accept commissions if they were to be criticised and if they were to be attributed mala fides by the press. I may quote here a few sentences from Chapter VI of the Thakkar-Natarajan Report.

> "The Commission is constrained to place on record with pain and distress that the sitting Judges of the Supreme Court consisting the present Commission have been subjected to wanton and deliberate character assassination by a section of the media. The Commission would have sought some solace if the institution to which they belong had taken suo moto cognizance of the matter and extended protection to them, for they had undertaken the function at the desire of the head of the institution who had invited them to discharge these functions. In a way, they were working for the institution..."

The learned judges went on to say that they had got powers to initiate proceedings under the Contempt of Court Act because even though they were working as members of the Commission under the Commission of Inquiry Act, they still command the same position as that of the judges of the Supreme Court and that for any attack on them or any slender or any defamation or any attribution of motives to them, they would be entitled to invoke the provisions of the Contempt of Courts Act. They, however, said that in order to make things very clear, the Act must be amended so that the doubt is removed, that whenever High Court judges or Supreme Court judges or members of the subordinate judiciary preside over any commission and if there is any contempt committed against them, they would be entitled to invoke the provisions of the Contempt of Court Act. They said, though they have got powers, stilling order to remove doubts the Act should be amended. In order to give effect to the recommendation of these judges, the Government should have amended the Contempt of Court Act so as to include members of a commission if they happen to be sitting judges of a court. But that has not been done. On the other hand the Government new seems to have taken this stand that any contempt of these presiding officers will not amount to contempt of court but it amounts only to an offence under section 10A of the Act. This goes contrary to the

[Sh. E. Ayyapureddy]

recommendations or the findings given by the two learned judges in their report. That means, you have not accepted that recommendation. I am in agreement with the Government's view that that recommendation should not have been accepted because the commission of inquiry is a fact finding body. It has no powers of a court. It is not a court. That is why, in the original Act itself section 10A has been provided which required that if anybody commits contempt of the presiding officer of a commission, he shall be punishable under section 10A for a period of six months. What section 10A(2) requires is that such proceedings should be initiated by a public prosecutor with the consent of the concerned Government. Therefore, now by this amendment, you have made it quite clear that commission of inquiry is not a court, that if any motive is attributed or defamation or slender is caused against any presiding officer of a commission it will only be an offence under section 10A and it will not amount to contempt of court under Contempt of Court Act. The High Court as well as Supreme Court judges have got powers to take immediate action and impose punishment both for civil contempt as well as criminal contempt. Now you have made it quite clear that it would not amount to contempt of court but it will only be an offence under section 10(A). So far as this is concerned, I do not have any dispute with regard to that. On the other hand, the dictum of the learned judges appears to have been overruled statuatorily by this amendment if that is the intention of the Government.

Unfortunately, this Act of 1952 has been amended. This Eighth Lok Sabha itself has amended it for the purpose of preventing the publication of the Thakkar Committee's Report on the Indira Gandhi assassination. This Act originally was intended to serve a public purpose. It gave wide latitude to the State Government as well as the Central Government for the purpose of appointing commissions for public purposes, in public interest. If we take a review of the various commissions that have been appointed by the various Sate Governments and the Central Government under this Act in the last two decades, we find that this Act has been more misused than properly used. Now it has become synonymous that whenever a political issue has to be solved or when a burning topic has to be shut into the cold storage, resort is made under this Act by appointing a commission. Whenever a very important political burning topic arises and if the ruling party wants to decelerate the tension or wants to put it in cold storage or wants to derive political advantage, resort is made under this Act to appoint a commission. The commission is appointed, then the commission takes its own time, recommendations are made by the commission and then these recommendations are sent to the respective departments and they gather dust. If we take the statistics of all the commissions and the recommendations made under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, we find that eighty per cent of the reports have been gathering dust and that there have been no follow up actions at all. In a number of cases we find that a Joint Secretary or an Under Secretary site over the judgement of Commissions' Reports. The findings of the Commissions are not made final, they are not made binding. They can again be subjected to review, both by the State Government and the Central Government. If the state Government refers it for judicial process, for prosecution, again it is subjected to review. I shall give you one instance. In Andhra Pradesh, there were allegations against some police officers that they had committed rape of one lady called Ramzai Bi, known as the Ramzai Bi Rape Case. An eminent judge of the High Court was appointed as the Commissioner. he made inquiries. He made recommendations that suitable action should be taken against them. He gave the findings that the police officers had abused their positions, misused their positions and committed crime. What followed after that? An investigation took place, a charge-sheet was filed, a magistrate tried the case and the accused were acquitted. He sat over the findings of the High Court Judge. So, the findings of facts arrived at by a commission after an elaborate inquiry, after giving opportunities to both sides, have been of no value at all. If the findings of facts are inconvenient or against

the interests of the political party in power in a particular State or at the Centre, they are never published or are never given effect to. So, the net result has been that in majority of cases the Commissions of Inquiry Act has subserved the interests of a party in power.

They have not served any purpose and the reports of these Commissions have never been given effect to. Recently, we have seen a number of Commissions, even the Commission on Kiran Bedi, again it went into troubled waters, the matter was taken to the Supreme Court, some of the Members of the Commission resigned. It all went on, it did not serve any purpose. On the other hand it created additional tension. Therefore, the Act has to be amended so that the power to appoint Commissions—there are certain restrictions placed upon the Central Government or the State Governments, certain well-established criteria defined as to when a Commission can be appointed and for what purpose a Commission can be appointed, and then once a Commission is appointed and the findings on facts are arrived at, they must have some binding effect, they must have finality about it. Otherwise, most of these Commissions of Inquiry are becoming a farce. But one important observation of the Thakkar-Natarajan Commission on Fairfax deserves consideration by this House. They said: "If this is the position, if a Commission can be attached and if they don't have any power to take any action under the Contempt of Court Act, hereafter no Supreme Court Judge, no sitting Judge of the Supreme Court or the High Court must accept membership of a Commission." We fully agree with them and as a matter of fact, no sitting Judge of the Supreme Court must take up any Commission. The institution of the Supreme Court will lose its value. There they act as eminent jurists and their Judgment becomes final. Now, when they accept the Commissions, they render themselves liable to be criticised and they cannot say, 'We will sit in the ivory tower as Judges of the Supreme Court and we don't want to be criticised by anybody.' When once they accept a Commission, they render themselves liable to be criticised by other persons and they can't complain that the press has misbehaved and that they have not taken any action under the Press Council Act as the learned Judges did here in this case. No Judge of the Supreme Court must ever be appointed, no sitting Judge of the Supreme Court must ever be appointed in any condition. If a retired Judge of the Supreme Court agrees to act on the Commission, let him act, but the practice of requesting the sitting Judges of the Supreme Court must be given up once for all. As a matter of fact there must be an amendment to the Act preventing the Judges of the Supreme Court being appointed. At any rate it must be a convention, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court must refuse to lend the services of any sitting Judge of the Supreme Court for any Commission. That also applies equally to the Judges of the High Court. I appeal to the judiciary, especially the High Court Judges and the Supreme Court Judges, the sitting Judges, in the interest of an independent judiciary not to accept any Commission whatsoever and if they accept a Commission, they will be rendering themselves liable to criticism. (*Interruptions*)

Now, the present position is that instead of 10A, (2) has been substituted by the present provision where a member of the Commission has to make a report to the High Court, the High Court itself takes the jurisdiction to try the matter, an offence punishable, within six months. You are giving for the first time a compulsory original jurisdiction in a criminal case to be tried by a High Court. In a small case like this, you are compelling the High Court to try a case originally, which used to be tried by a Magistrate. You are going out of the way. Then, I so not know how far this particular clause will stand the test of Article 14 because for the first time you are conferring on the High Court original jurisdiction to try an offence under this and then against the Judgment of the High Court there is an appeal to the Supreme Court on an offence punishable with six months. Why should the High Court be encumbered with such offences? Therefore, I say that the present Amendment is ill-conceived and it will be infructuous, it will not serve any purpose whatsoever.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Why?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is another Somnath who will oppose it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Every action has reaction.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: My friend, Mr. Ayyapu Reddy from the other side has said that when the Commission is not a court. The judge is held to be a private individual and he has no greater protection against public criticism than that of a private individual. The contempt of court does not apply to individual. It applies to court. The court while discharging its duty then and then alone, the Contempt of Court Act is applicable. When a judge steps outside the duty of his office, he cannot be said that he is acting as a judge. A judge appointed under the Commissions of Inquiry Act is only meant for fact-finding. Certainly the Government has the right to accept or not to accept the report of a Commission, to act or not to act on the report of a Commission. That is provided in the original Act, from the inception of the Act. Even those who scandalise the members of the Commission who commit perjury may go unpunished. According to IPC perjury is an offence. The Cr. P.C. provides that only a court can take cognizance of an offence. Section 195(1)(b) of Cr. P.C. says that no court shall take cognizance of any offence or in relation to any person before a court except on the complaint in writing for that court or any other court to which the court is subordinate.

It is a disputed point whether the Commission is a court or not. That is why, Thakkar-Natarajan Commission had recommended that Commission be given the power to punish for contempt. Government has given a thought to it and a provision is made to see that protection is given to the persons even judges who are in the Commission. That is the very reason, why the Government has brought this Bill. There is a provision in the Bill also that the appeal lies on the Supreme Court against the decision of the High Court. The complaint has to be made either by any member of the Commission or any officer authorised by it. That is very clear. It is necessarily that the trial should be by the High Court, because the judges of the Supreme Court and High Court also act as members in the Commission. That is the reason why, complaint is to be filed before the High Court and committal proceedings will not be required. Only on the complaint, the High Court will take cognizance of it and gives a decision. There is still further protection of appeal to the Supreme Court. The intention of the Government is very clear and there is nothing to comment. The previous restriction was that only on the recommendation or approval of State Government or the Central Government, the proceedings of contempt were started, but the restrictions have been removed. So, more scope is given and protection is given to the Commission so that he can act judiciously and with confidence. Not that, he can be ridiculed in whatever manner others want. That protection has been given under this Bill.

About the assessors, that was there in the rules and it was made a provision in the Bill. I would suggest to the hon. Minister to think on another point. There is a dispute as to the manner in which the evidence is to be recorded before the Commission, whether the provision of the Evidence Act apply or not, whether a witness should be cross-examined and declared hostile and to be cross-examined by the person who calls him as his own witness. In this respect, there are many interpretations and many views and if that point would have been clarified in this Bill, it would have been comprehensive. So, I would suggest that having brought this Bill, the Government may think of this important matter, the manner of recording evidence before the Commission and if a person refuses to appear before the Commission and to give evidence, what action and power the Commission has got to take action against him and whether the evidence should be

recorded on oath. These are the points which still agitate the minds of many persons in our country. Let a clear definition be given to this aspect and another Amendment be brought.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Clauses 2 and 4 of the Bill deal with appointment of assessors and their association with the Commissions of Enquiry. That may be a welcome provision. However, Clause 3, I submit, is most ill-advised, undemocratic and unconstitutional. It is rather unfortunate that the Government has deemed it fit to come forward with these particular provisions contained in this particular Clause 3.

I do share in the concern of the Government with respect to the increasing tendency to bring Commissions of Enquiry into disrepute. But there is, however, an important point that must be considered here. It was Thakkar and Natarajan Commission which recommended that the Commissions of Enquiry should also be given the powers to treat their defamation as contempt of court. Of course, it is heartening to find that the Government has not conceded to that suggestion totally.

But it must be pointed out here as to from where do these Judges really draw their dignity and self-respect. The hon. Member Shri Somnath Rath was arguing just now that these powers are meant to try the people for attempting to bring the Commissions of Inquiry into disrepute and these powers will give confidence to the Presiding Judges . But it is a mistaken motion of the entries situation. Are the Presiding Judges so weak as to think that their self-respect should always be based upon such penal provisions which may help them like crutches on which they may stand? I respectfully submit that it is not provision, with respect to contempt of court which preserve the dignity and self-respect of Judges. They derive their dignity and respect from the manner in which preserve they perform their duties. We have, of course, a scenarie of criticism, violent criticism against the procedures adopted by the Thakkar-Natarajan Commission. But, here, I would like to draw the attention of this House to an important observation made by no less a Jurist than H.M. Seervai. He, in his article published in the Indian Express on 30th December, 1987, said and I quote:

> "If the manner in which the two-member Thakkar-Natarajan Commission conducted its enquiry has met with withering criticism, and its report has been condemned by competent opinion outside the ruling party, the faulty must lie not in the Commission of Inquiry Act, but in the manner in which the two Judges conducted their inquiry and made their report".

This is an important point to be borne in mind that dignity is derived not from these legal crutches; in trying to draw power to try a person for contempt. Rather, this dignity arises from the manner in which the Presiding authorities perform their duties.

Sir, in contract to the functioning of the Thakkar-Natarajan Inquiry Commission, I may draw the attention of this House to the functioning of another Commission in Bombay, popularly known as the Lentin Commission which injured into the 14 deaths that took place in the JJ Hospital which brought out a report of a very far-reaching consequence. Its report and the working of the Lentin Commission drew wide public acclaim. I need not try to contrast the procedure adopted by the Thakkar-Natarajan Commission and the Procedure adopted by the Lentin Commission. But, any person who has made a study of these two things will know well how wide acclaim, wide support and appreciation the Lentin Commission drew. It brought a great and fair name even to the judiciary.

16.59 1/2. hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

It is therefore wrong to think that we must resort to such provision, penal provi-

[Sh. G.M. Banatwalla]

sions of contempt in order to maintain the sanctity, the dignity and the respect of even our judiciary.

17.00 hrs.

In the case of the commissions of inquiry, they are of course, not a court, and Thakkar-Natrajan Commission suggested that though they are not a court, yet their defamation be construed as contempt of court.

What is the attitude of court to contempts committed? It is seldom that one comes across cours exercising or wielding the powers granted to them under the Contempts of Court Act. It is seldom. Their act is to restrain with their own dignity and consult their own dignity. It is here, perhaps, in the Parliament that we talk a lot about breaches of privilege and so on and so forth. But as far as courts are concerned, it is very rare that they try to exercise power despite vehement criticism. It is very rare that they think of exercising their power under the Contempts of Court Act. Why is it so? And our courts should be complimented for this attitude. It is because something mere than more contempt of court is involved. Something that is of far greater importance is at stake. At stake is the freedom of speech itself, the freedom of the press itself. I must here point out to a famous observation of Lord Dennings. Lord Dennings has said:

> "Let me say at once that we will never use the jurisdiction as a means to uphold our own dignity. That must rest on surer foundations."

Even our courts realise that the question of their dignity and self-respect must rest on surer foundations rather than these legal crutches which can even go to suppress the freedom of expression and speech held so sacred by our democratic Constitution.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, therefore, the first point that I was trying to make is that is is totally wrong to think that we have to give more teeth to our laws of libel and defamation in order to protect the dignity and self-respect of these commissions of inquiry.

Of course, commissions of inquiry—it has been held—are not courts and when they are not courts, any person who presides over the commission of inquiry does not perform any judicial function. The Commissions of Inquiry Act, Section 3 says that any person can be appointed to preside, can be appointed as a member or chairman of commissions of inquiry. It is not necessary that the presiding officer will always be a sitting judge. Therefore, you just look at the absurdity of the recommendation of the Thakkar-Natrajan Commission. The Thakkar-Natrajan Commission says in its Report: "that the judges who preside over the commissions of inquiry should be given the power to try their defamation as contempt of court." Why the judges who come to preside over the commissions of inquiry should be given that particular power in contrast to any other person who may have been appointed and that other person may not be a sitting judge and may be appointed to preside over a commission of inquiry.

SHRI H.A. DORA (Srikakulam): Clear discrimination.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: That would be a discrimination between the presiding authorities themselves.

A sitting judge whether of the High Court or the Supreme Court who comes out of the court cannot ask for privileges and powers that he enjoys in the court. If he chooses to write a book, if he chooses to make a speech or if he chooses to come out and preside over a commission of inquiry, then he must submit himself to the comments of the people. He cannot have the same powers.

It is of course correct on the part of the Government not to have treated the commissions of inquiry as court. That particular aspect is a healthy one. It is also correct not to have clothed these commissions inquiry with powers of the Contempt of

Court Act.

However, there are so many points connected with Clause 3 which are ill advised. An offence of defamation of the presiding authority of the commission of inquiry is an offence under Section 10A of the Commission of Inquiry Act. But this Section 10A itself needs to be relooked and reviewed. It is highly defective, unsound, discriminatory and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution of India where unequal treatment is being given. I am sorry to find that while coming before this House with a Bill to amend the Commission of Inquiry Act, a deep thinking has not been given to the subject.

The law of defamation is to be found in Section 499 of IPC. This very section 499 of the IPC lays down ten exceptions and explanations. Nearly ten safeguards are laid down. A person proceeded against under 499 IPC has nearly ten safeguards; but those ten safeguards have not been repeated here under Section 10A of the Commission of Inquiry. Why is this discrimination.

I may be told that this Section 10A was perhaps framed in accordance with the recommendations of the 24th report of the Law Commission. I don't know for what reasons the 24th Report of the Law Commission merely came to this conclusion without an indepth study of the same that it is not necessary to burden Section 10A of the Commission of Inquiry Act with so many exceptions and explanations and that the High Courts will decide with reasonable justice. A person is left at the mercy of courts and this standard of reasonableness may differ from court to court. One cannot be penalised for the vagueness of our legislation. I, therefore, submit that even in the case of defamation of the President, the Vice President, the Governor, the Chief Minister or the Prime Minster the law provides all these ten safeguards.

In other words a person who has defamed the President of India is far better protected than a person who is alleged to have defamed the presiding authority of the Commission of inquiry. What is this situation It is unequal treatment. Equality of law that is the dictum under Article 14 of the Constitution. It has been thrown to the winds. Therefore, Section 22A(1) of the Commission of Inquiry Act itself is highly defective and here further discriminations have been added in the law. Even a sitting judge, it he comes out of the court and chooses to preside over a commission of inquiry which according to the law is not a court, then he is in the stage of a private citizen. The law of libel, the law of defamation applicable to a private citizen should be applicable to him also. There can be no other discrimination. Section 499 of the IPC will apply in both cases. To discriminate would be violative of Article 14 and also violative of Article 21 of the Constitution. But here the discrimination is still continued further. Not only are those 10 safeguards laid down in Section 499 of the IPC not incorporated in the present Bill but the discrimination is still carried forward. Now notwithstanding anything contained in the CrPC—hats off to the Commissions of inquiry—the reference can be made directly to a High Court and not to the magistrate. Defame the President of India and go to the magistrate. Defame this great man presiding over a commission of inquiry and directly go to the High Court with six months punishment. What are we doing! We are playing havoc with our laws and adding discrimination after discrimination and then not rest content with that we go still further. So I take strong objection to that particular provision in the Bill. It is in Clause 3 proviso to subclause (v) that High Court may take cognizance under sub-section (i), that is, cognizance of an offence alleged to bring the presiding authority or a member of the commission of inquiry into dis-repute. They may take cognizence of it on a report by Commission of Inquiry itself and it is provided that the personal attendance of a member of commission of inquiry or complainant or otherwise is not required. Why is this particular safeguard given to a member of the commission of inquiry that his personal attendance is not required? I am afraid

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it means that the complainant cannot be cross-examined. He sits in his ivory tower. We know very well now-a-days how some of the commissions of inquiry at least function—whether Misra commission or Fairfax commission. Now you are giving them added protection which is neither deserved nor it leads to any amelioration of the situation. It is a mockery of our Constjtution and the democratic principles of equality before law.

Of course, while the powers to try the cases as contempts of court have not been given to the commissions of inquiry, it is also well stated that an appeal shall lie to the Supreme Court against the decisions of he High Court. That may be a silver lining in the whole thing. But as I submitted that the provisions under clause 3 are ill-advised, undemocratic, unconstitutional, no deep thinking has been given to the entire question.

Furthermore, it is necessary that certain other important points connected with commissions of inquiry should be understood. The safeguards given under section 499 required to be incorporated here. Those safeguards are necessary if we are to safeguard and guarantee the freedom of expression of an individual or the Press. Sir, the great American Judge, Mr. Justice Frank further has observed and I quote:

> "The history of liberty has been the history of procedure safeguards."

Let us, therefore, not take this entire question very lightly and have a very callous attitude towards it.

I must also urge upon the Government to consider that they should come forward with an amendment of the Commissions of Inquiry Act in order to do away with the mandatory provision that a commission must sit in camera at the request of the Central Government. Whenever that request is made, it must. I do not know why you should be clothed with the oath of secrecy. The commissions of inquiry are appointed on matters of public importance and their inquiry must be conducted under public gaze.

Then again, the Government has also reserved the right to publish the report or not to publish or place it on the table of the House here. Again there, these things need to be properly regulated. There are also very condemnable failures to act upon the recommendations of the reports of the commissions of inquiry. Several reports gather dust in the various Department and the Ministries. I wanted to give so many examples on this particular point that I am making.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: But in respect to the bell that you have rung, I will conclude.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): That was the first one.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): You can ask him for whom the bell tolls.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I must conclude by urging upon the Government to come forward to withdraw this clause 3—an obnoxious clause—in this particular Bill. Thank you very much.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Hon Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Commissions of Inquiry (Amendment) Bill, 1988. Initially, the Commissions of Inquiry Act was a complete legislation, complete enactment. But the views have been changed later on. Initially, under section 4, the commission' was stated as a 'civil court'. But a couple of months back, the Supreme Court has given a judgment by which it has been decided that commission is not the court. It does not come in the definition of a court. It has been recently decided by the Judges of the Supreme Court. Mr. Justice A.P. Sen while delivering the judgement noted that while several acts had declared tribunals to be courts, none had done that to

the commissions of enquiry. He further observed that a commission of enquiry was appointed by the Government 'for the information of its own mind' so that it could decide the course of action to be followed.

So, this judgement of the Supreme Court has compelled the Government to bring forward this legislation because now all allegations against the Commission, or any type of scurrilous writings or defamatory publications against the presiding officer or chairman of a commission cannot be dealt with in any way. The Commission cannot take any action because it does not come under the definition of a court under Section 4. This has been decided by the judgment of the Supreme Court. Now, what is left to the presiding officer? He cannot come under Section 199 for defamation. He cannot also come under Section 195 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which defines the courts. So, there was no other option with the Government or the Minister but to bring this amendment. Therefore, he has moved this amendment very appropriately.

The second point which has been mentioned by the judgment is that following varying inter-pretations of Section 195, the Law Commission had recommended that for the sake of clarity, 'court' should mean only civil, criminal or revenue courts. Tribunals having the attributes of a court could be regarded as courts only if the statute concerned specifically declared so Not only the Supreme Court, but even this Parliament has accepted this because this is a Law Commission's recommendation. Accepting the Law Commission's recommendation, the Parliament made suitable changes in the Criminal Procedure Code in the year of 1973. Now, both ways are closed for the Commission of Inquiry to take action against contemners, after the amendment to the Cr. C.P. and the judgment of the Supreme Court in September 1988. Therefore, the amendment which is sought to be incorporated in the Commission of Inquiry Act is quite relevant and very necessary. The argument of Shri Ayyapu Reddy that the Government has got this idea only because of Thakkar-Natarajan Commission is not true. Rather, the Government has been compelled to bring this legislation because of the judgement of the Supreme Court. When there is no other option open for the Government, they have to bring this legislation.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Did anyone has any doubt that the Commission of Inquiry is not a court?

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: Shri Ayyapu Reddy has expressed a doubt about the intentions of the Government...

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Nobody has any doubt that this is a court of law. There is no necessity of the judgement of the Supreme Court to know this.

SHRI RAM SIGH YADAV: You please refer to Section 4. The Commission shall have the powers of a civil court while trying case under civil procedure, but only to a limited extent. But now, the question is how to punish or take action against a person who is a contemner of the presiding officer. Tomorrow, if you are appointed as a presiding officer of a commission, you cannot take any action against a contemner. The quantum of punishment, etc. is entirely a different matter and I am coming to that aspect also.

Now the Minister has incorporated subsections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 in section 10(A). Here he has said that directly the Presiding Officer can go as a complainant before the High Court; and in the High Court, the procedure which has been provided for the trial of a warrant case is other than the police, case; the accused be tried according to that procedure. Here I differ from the Minister. The reason is that the procedure which has been followed in the Criminal Procedure Code is like this. When their is a contempt against the President or the Vice-President, then you go to the Sessions Court. But when there is a contempt against the Presiding Officer, that is against the Commission, then he is allowed to go directly to the High Court. This is contradictory. Section 199(2) reads as follows:

[Sh. Ram Singh Yadav]

"Notwithstanding anything contained in this Code, when any offence falling under Chapter XXI of the Indian Penal Code is alleged...."

Chapter XXI deals with defamation cases. It again reads as under:

"When any offence falling under Chapter XXI of the Indian Panal Code is alleged to have been committed against a person who, at the time of such Commission, is the President of India, the Vice-President of India, the Governor of a State, the Administrator of a Union territory of a Minister of the Union or of a State or of a Union territory, or any other public servant employed in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State in respect of his conduct in the discharge of his public functions A court of Session may take cognizance of such offence, without the case being committed to it, upon a complaint in writing made by the Public Prosecutor."

Now for complaint of the Public Prosecutor even in the case of President and Vice-President it is the Court of Session which takes the cognizance; and in this case, you have provided directly the High Court. Why have you done it when there is a procedure in the Criminal Procedure Code? Thus there is a procedure that even when there is a contempt against the President, the Vice-President, the Public Prosecutor shall file a complaint in the Session Court and he is not allowed to go directly to the High Court. But when there is a contempt against the Commission, he is directly allowed to go to the High Court though is directly allowed to go to the High Court though he does not have the status more than the President or the Vice-President.

Now you have said that the procedure which you have provided for the High Court, the procedure which has been provided for a Magistrate; that is the procedure which is being followed by a Magistrate in a warrant case; theat procedure shall be adopted by the High Court. That is against the Constitution and against the Criminal Procedure Code because the Session Court cannot be compelled to follow the procedure of a Magistrate. The Session Court has got its own procedure and that has been provided in the trial before a Court of Session. There are different procedures for trials; trial of a summon case is different; trial of a warrant case is different and trial of Session case is different. These are different procedures you have provided. While the Session Court shall follow the procedure of a Court of Magistrate, that is of the warrant case, but High Court can be compelled to follow the procedure which is being followed by the Magistrate?

That is not proper. Because what happens in the Sessions Court? I am quoting Section 225 of the Criminal Procedure Code:

"In every trial before the court of sessions the prosecution shall be conducted by a Public Prosecutor".

Any case, that may be a private case, a private complaint, whatever might be the case, as soon as the criminal matter goes to the Sessions Court, the conduct of that case in the Sessions court can only be conducted by the Public Presecutor. Although, that may be a private complaint, even that private complaint, if cognizance has been taken by the court of sessions, then that private complaint also shall be conducted by the Public Prosecutor. It is obligatory on the Public Prosecutor to conduct it in the court of sessions. And this has been provided in Section 225 of the Cr. P.C.

Now you are allowing a private individual one individual; not the Public Prosecutor to conduct his criminal case directly in the High Court. This is against the spirit of the Criminal Procedure Code. In the Sessions Court you are not allowing the individual to conduct the case, as soon as cognizance of the matter is taken by the court.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): This is a special provision.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Why should there be a special provision?

AN HON. MEMBER: It is a legal matter.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Whatever is illegal you can talk.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: "In every trial before the court of sessions, the prosecution shall be conducted by a Public Prosecutor." The Public Prosecutor in this case also should be allowed. As soon as the complaint is admitted by the High Court and the High Court takes cognizance then it is the Government Advocate who shall conduct the prosecution and not the private individual. Because, when there is a prima facie case, only then, and then only the Sessions court or the High Court takes cognizance of the case. This is the procedure. This has been laid down in the Criminal Prosecure Code. So, if you adopt a different procedure then it means that you are going against the previsions which have been laid down in the Criminal Procedure Code for the trial of the case in the Sessions court, as enumerated in the Criminal Procedure Code.

Now, as regards the appeal, you have provided in sub-section 6:

> "Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, an appeal shall lie as a matter of right from any judgment of the High Court to the Supreme Court, both on facts and on law."

I have got a doubt whether on facts any judgment can be challenged in the Supreme Court. Because in the Supreme Court only it is the interpretation of law which can be sought, or an appeal can be filed on that or when there is a point of law involved. And on facts, no judgment can be challenged before the Supreme Court.

I therefore suggest that no High Court shall take cognizance of an offence under sub-section (1) unless the complaints made within six months. This provision is already there in the Commissions of Inquiry Act. The High Court takes cognizance of an offence under sub-section (1) and shall try the case in accordance with the procedure for the trial of warrant case instituted otherwise than on police report before a court of a Magistrate; provided that the personal attendance of the member of the Commission or the complainant or otherwise, is not required in this case.

So, my suggestion is that this trial may be entrusted to the Sessions Court in place of a High Court, then all the matters will be all right. Because, when the complaint for contempt of the Vice-President or the President can be tried by the Court of Sessions, then the contempt of the presiding officer of the Commission can also be tried by the Sessions Court. So far as the trial court is concerned, the Sessions Court is the highest court so far as the trial of the criminal offence is concerned. The High Court is not the trial court so far as criminal offences are concerned. Therefore, we should take this point into consideration and we should substitute the word 'High Court' by 'Sessions Court'.

The experience at the Bar has been that the services of the assessors have been dispensed with by amending the Criminal Procedure Code in the year 1973. Now, when you are availing the services of the assessors, you have to give some sort of qualifications to the assessors. It it is not possible to give it in the Act, then the qualifications should be enumerated in the Rules. The experience at the Bar of the assessors in the Sessions trial has been quite unhealthy. The reports of those assessors may not have been helpful so far as the trial was concerned.

My submission is that, if you are making provision for assessors, then certainly you have to prescribe the qualification and below certain qualifications, the assessors shall not be appointed.

[Sh. Ram Singh Yadav]

I hope the hon. Minister will consider the suggestions made by me. With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara): Sir, I appreciate my previous speaker Shri Yadav. He has spoken the truth and this will enlighten the Minister and the Government. Being a practising lawyer, he pointed out certain things, which the Ministry may not know.

There are some Ministers in the Ministry who are supposed to be the new intelligentSsia of the Government, whenever they hear something, they bring a law. For example, Defamation Bill. Thakkar-Natarajan Commission said something. They wanted some protection from the public criticism. Immediately, without going into the aspects of the matter, a Bill was pub before this Parliament. I tell you it is an insult to the Parliament. No practising lawyer, who has any elementary knowledge of the law can support this Act. One of the speakers from the Treasury Bench also said this..... (*Interruptions*)

What is an Inquiry Commission? It is a fact finding body appointed by the Government. They want the fact finding body to act as super power. What is our experience in the last few months here itself? Have the bodies, which were appointed for the purpose of fact finding, found the facts? Have they white washed? What was the duty assigned to them? What have they done? We have criticised it. The public have go a right to criticise it. Some persons want to go back to the ivory towers and say that they are privileged to speak like this. This is an encroachment over the democratic rights of the people.

India is an open society and people belive that they have got a right to speak and express themselves on everything. It is clear that you are going to encroach on the democratic rights of the people.

This is much more than the Defamation Bill. A fact-finding body cannot be criticised. Why do you appoint a fact-finding body? You want certain things. Some convenient people may be available for that. You appoint them and they say that everything is justified. Even the representatives of the people cannot see the report when it is laid on the Table of the House. They say that is is a privileged document and certain privileged documents cannot be shown. To make such documents privileged, you want to give privilege... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil): What about Narendra Commission?

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: This will not only enable Narendra Commission but any Tom, Dick or Harry, who takes over as a Chairman of a body. He sits in a glasshouse and dictate terms. In no way, this can be supported. And here some judge wants to get discriminated on the ground that he is a judge. If the thing goes to this extent, where this country is leading to? I feel, there is a set of people in power who are very much chicken-hearted against criticism. Criticism is a part of democracy. People have got the right to criticise Ministers, Government and the Prime Minister. And open criticism makes the society healthy. Unless you hear criticism, understand the voice of the people and hear the people, how can you build a healthy democratic society? For that purpose criticism is necessary. When you find that it is inconvenient for you, immediately somebody tells, Oh, you have alleged a criminal offence; O.K. come on, beheaded immediately. Is it the way to approach the problem? It is mischievous and ignorance. So this is one of the laws which have been brought before the House in the recent past against the principles of Constitution.

What is the functioning of an inquiry commission? I need not go into details. There were certain laws passed in Kerala where the complaint can be convicted. Why is this inquiry conducted? Its it for personal satisfaction or to get clearance or get I am only supplementing the previous speaker from the treasury benches. There is a con-

vention in the Supreme Court that it will not admit a case of six months imprisonment in a criminal case. Those who are practising lawyers know that even for cases where two years, four years, five years or six years imprisonment is given and the finding is concurrent, to come up a case for hearing in the Supreme Court will take years together. And here the Supreme Court which is the highest legal forum, is being burdened with analysing the fact of a six months imprisonment case which was tried by a second class Magistrate. So what is the duty of the Supreme Court Judge now? He will have to function as a First Class Magistrate. If the presiding officer of an inquiry commission feels that there is disrepute of his reputation, immediately he goes and files a case. I am glad that the Bill does not contain the provision that the burden of proof is on the accused. If that was also there, then nothing can be said by anybody. Thank God, that is not there.

Mr. Banatwalla has explained in detail the constitutional provision. Article 14 of the Constitution gives certain guarantees like equality before law things done in such a manner that it looks as if all is perfect, the commission says so and the people believe that everything was all right. You remember, Jayaprakash Narayan had shown a path. Whenever atrocities were committed, he himself nominated eminent people or people nominated eminent people. for everything there is objectivity and people have got certain beliefs. Even if a judge is elevated to a Supreme Court Judge's level because of his continuation in the judicial service, because of his seniority, will he be considered equal to a man who is reckoned with by the people because of his basic beliefs and principles and activities? So, that is the difference. It is the people's confidence which has to be achieved and those who have achieved people's confidence, will never have a complaint as Mr. Thakkar-Natarajan or Mr. Misra or anybody is saying that they are being criticised. Especially when these commissions are conducting injuries for satisfying the people, it should be open to the people to know what their findings are. I have a vague memory in my mind that when I was young—eight or nine years old—everyday the newspapers used to publish the proceedings of some murder case. Some dead body was found in a forest in my part of the State. The Government ordered an inquiry. Everyday the report was coming in the newspapers. People used to read what the advocate was asking. So, when something is referred for inquiry, these things are made known to the public and finally, if there is something suspicious, if a person is found guilty, he will be brought to book and the confidence of the people will be gained and retained. But here somebody wants to hide everything and control the nation. It is not possible. People have found out what it is and they are not going to forgive him. They know what it is and where it is. You cannot hide it to the extent you want.

[*Translation*]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was listening to the entire debate very carefully. Many legal points have been raised. I can also do the same. But I have gone through this Bill and I have found no such shortcomings for which so much of discussion should take place. It is being presumed that only a judge of the High Court or Supreme Court is entitled to hold the position of the Chairman and Members of the Commissions of Inquiry. This is not something imperative. Even a common man can become the Chairman.

Several points have been raised about this Commission. I will submit that you should take the example of the Shah Commission first. What all has the Shah Commission not done? If that chapter could be opened, it will be one of the darkest period in our history. The Shah Commission ignored law and did whatever was possible to do. You are raising the issue of Thakkar, Mishra and the Natrajan Commissions but why not the Shah Commission?

[*English*]

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: We never wanted this privilege.

[*Translation*]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: My friend, let us talk about the Shah Commission. If we take each point of this Commission, you will have no reply.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You are dancing on Shah's Table.

[*Translation*]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: I am submitting that the people who are in public life know that baseless criticism is very painful. We are all sitting in glass houses. And we should think before throwing stones at others because our glass-houses can also break: We are politicians. We read the newspapers everyday to find out whether something has been published in our praise or not. If we are criticised, we do not like it. This is common in case of every politician.

If there is any complaint against a Member of an Inquiry Commission or any other commission, why should it be necessary to take the permission of the Central or the State Government before filing it in the court. This is a matter of natural justice and what is wrong in it? Even now it is necessary to take the permission of the Central or the State Governments before filing any case but it takes considerable time in getting the permission. Many time the State Government could not grant permission. ...(*Interruptions*)

I have submitted that I am not a lawyer and I do not want to go into details but it is not justified to make baseless allegations. If it is done then one should have full rights to seek justice. There can be no two opinions about the fact that if there are more than one Member of a Commission and one Member of the commission is subjected to criticism, he should have the full right to go to a court of law for justice. All sorts of allegations are made now-a-days. During the last few years, the Members of the Commission have been *subjected to every kind of criticism. Character* assassination was indulged in through public speeches and yellow journalism. All efforts were made to divert the public mind and defame them Under such circumstances if someone wants to go to the court of law to seek justice, there should be no objection to that. If someone becomes a Member of a court of Inquiry, does it give licence to the people to hurl allegations at him? While he is a Member of the commission and even after he is out of it, does he have to tolerate undue criticism? The courts should be open to all. I think Government has taken a very bold step. Justice should be equal for all regardless of whether a High Court Judge or a Member of a Inquiry Commission is involved. Without taking more time of the House, I will congratulate the Government for this Bill and suggest that necessary attention should be paid for its implementation.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Commission of Inquiry (Amendment) Bill *moved in this House. Two points in this* amendment are very important. Firstly, if any allegation is levelled against a Member of a Commission of Inquiry, or he is subject to criticism through the medium of Press, he will not have to seek the permission of the Central or the State Government for going to the court of law which has been necessary so far. This amendment is proper as getting permission requires a long time. The authorities used to take 6 months or a year for granting permission and by that time the very purpose was defeated. Therefore, the amendment which has been proposed is welcome.

Just now Shri Ram Singh Yadav has expressed his views and I associate myself with them. The session court is the final authority for the trial of every type of criminal case. There is no provision of trial by High

Court. According to the criminal procedure, when cases connected with the Hon. President, Vice President and the Judges are conducted in the sessions court, the provision extending special privilege to the Members of the various commissions to appeal directly to the High Courts, is not proper in any sense. And when a case is being tried in a High court, the supreme court cannot have any say in it because its function is to interpret law when there is a point of law involved. Hence, as in the Supreme Court only iterpretation of points of law can be sought, it will not hear any appeal and justice will not be granted. Therefore, this suggestion that the session court may be entrusted with the trial of such cases in place of High Court is a very important suggestion and it should be accepted by the Government. The Commission appointed to inquire into the conduct of politicians and Chief Minster usually take unduly long time in arriving at their conclusions. Though crores of rupees and much time have been spent on these commissions, apart from adverse publicity of the guilty, not even in a single case has any action been taken against anybody by the Central or State Government nor any criminal case filed under the commission of Inquiry Act. As per my information no action was taken against them. Therefore, it is my view that a radical change should be brought in the Commission of the Inquiry Act and commissions appointed under this Act should be included within the definition of a court and decisions of the commission should be considered equivalent to the judgements of the courts. It is all right if appeal is filed in the supreme court because retired judges and sitting judges may both be the members of such commissions but the point is that the awards given by these commissions should be considered as equivalent to that of a judgement by the court of law. The amendment should be given due consideration by the courts and recognized by the judges. This will at lest make it clear to the person concerned against whom charges have been levelled that if they are proved, it will have serious consequences and deterrent punishment may be awarded. Therefore, attention should be paid to this matter.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: This cannot be done under Article 92. This has also been stated by the law commission.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: So much time it wasted by the various Inquiry Commissions under the Commission of Inquiry Act but we find no results. Has any action been taken against any Chief Minister on the basis of the reports of any of these commissions so far? Does it mean that the complaints lodged with the commissions and the various allegations were false and baseless? What are the findings under the aforementioned Act that these Charges have been framed. Even after Charges are *prima facie* proved, no action is taken against them. This creates doubts in the minds of people regarding the provisions of this Act. This has adverse effects and politics becomes—unclean. If you want to have clean politics and administration and check corruption, you will have to make such provisions in the Commission of Inquiry Act, which will have a positive impact on the people. The decisions taken by the Inquiry Commissions should be considered as equivalent to the judgements of the court and requisite action taken thereon accordingly. Only then it will have a positive effect on the people.

16.00 hrs.

I want to make one submission regarding the assessors. Although there were provisions regarding the assessors in the original Act, an amendment was made in 1973 by which this provision was done away with. We felt at that time that keeping the provision of assessors will be of no use. The assessors will be of no help but they would surely complicate matter and create so much of confusion by which it will difficult to arrive at proper conclusions. I think the situation has not changed even today and it will be difficult to take proper decision with their assistance. They will not give any help. Therefore, I want to request that the provision made about the assessors in the present amending Bill should be detected. With these words, I support the commissions of Inquiry (Amendment) Bill.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to resemble on Thursday, the 24th November, 1988 at 11.00 A.M.

18.01.40 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 24th November, 1988/Agrahayana 3, 1910 Saka.

Printed at S. Narayan & Sons, Delhi.